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BIRTHS.
On June 21, 1909, at the British Legation, Peking, the wife of C. G. A. KIRKE, of a daughter, E. P. V. INSLAW, of a son.

On June 27, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of E. R. VERNER, of a son.

DEATH.
On June 5, 1909, at Sining-fu, Kansu, ROSE CONSTANCE, the youngest daughter of H. French and Sarah Ridley, aged 3 years and 11 months.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.
MAIL SUPPLEMENT.
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1909.

CHINA'S POSTAL SERVICE.
(3rd July.)

In our last issue much space was devoted to a notice and extracts from the comprehensive report of Mr. T. P. Piry, the Postal Secretary, on the working of the Chinese postal system during last year. Our extracts were intended to convey a general knowledge of the extensive development in this special department of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs with special reference to the remarkable progress which Mr. Piry was able to chronicle in South China. To-day we give prominence to his review of routes and communications. Courier lines have increased during the year from 18,500 to 25,000 miles, or by nearly 50 per cent. The total length of the postal routes is now 185,000 miles, of which 15,000 miles are covered by the railway lines, which continue steadily

extending, now run over 12,500 miles, or 5,000 miles. Operations are now carried on over 262,000 miles, or, roughly, 87,000 miles, the increase in length during the year amounting to some 9,000 miles. In the Peking district a communication was opened to Lamianio (Dolono), connecting it with Suibow; outside the Great Wall the service is successfully maintained by means of mounted couriers, the 560 miles from Lamianio to Suibow being accomplished in 56 hours. Eight new courier lines have been opened in Honan, making connection between the northern and southern sections of the province. The trunk road to the west from Honan to Tangshan—285 miles—over difficult and robber-infested country, is now covered by day-and-night couriers in 50 hours. In Shanxi 16 new lines have been opened, and three of the existing routes have been converted into fast day-and-night services, the most important of which extends from Paochow in the north, through the centre of the province, to Puchow in the south, where it connects with Tungkuang, in Shensi; this connection measures no less than 2,550 miles. The length of lines in the province increased during the year by 2,500 miles. Shanxi keeps up a courier service of over 15,000 miles, from Puchow to Tungkwan, the robber-infested country, is now covered by day-and-night couriers in 50 hours. In Shansi 16 new lines have been opened, and three of the existing routes have been converted into fast day-and-night services, the most important of which extends from Paochow in the north, through the centre of the province, to Puchow in the south, where it connects with Tungkuang, in Shensi; this connection measures no less than 2,550 miles. The length of lines in the province increased during the year by 2,500 miles. Shanxi keeps up a courier service of over 15,000 miles, from Puchow to Tungkwan, the robber-infested country, is now covered by day-and-night couriers in 50 hours. In Shansi 16 new lines have been opened, and three of the existing routes have been converted into fast day-and-night services, the most important of which extends from Paochow in the north, through the centre of the province, to Puchow in the south, where it connects with Tungkuang, in Shensi; this connection measures no less than 2,550 miles.

More interest appears to be evoked at the Sanitary Board on the question of graves than is often given to matters of more importance to the living members of the community. At yesterday's meeting the main theme of discussion was the provision of a cemetery for Buddhists which arose in connection with a letter received from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that His Excellency the Governor has the question under consideration. What will strike those readers who have followed the debates on this subject generally is the fact that the Government practically admits the soundness of Mr. Ho Kom Tong's contention that the Colonial Secretary is properly open to all those for whom special reservations have not been made. Otherwise, why should it be necessary "to set apart and dedicate a portion of the Colonial cemetery for Christians" if the whole ground in the past has been devoted exclusively to Protestants? The proposal now is to prepare an area in the Sookpoo valley capable of containing 1,000 graves, at an estimated cost of \$12,000. His Excellency, we read in the Colonial Secretary's letter to the Sanitary Board, "hopes to provide for this expenditure in next year's budget, but in the meantime it is proposed to set apart and dedicate a portion of the Colonial cemetery for Christians and in that portion Buddhist or other non-Christian burial rites will be prohibited. As, however, the practice of their religious rites was guaranteed to all nations and creeds by the proclamation of the 1st February, 1841, and as Buddhists have at the present time no place except the Colonial cemetery in which to bury their dead, His Excellency considers that it would be unwise to interfere with their rites in the remote part of the cemetery in which they are practised and which it is not proposed to include in the Christian cemetery." So that after all, outsiders, or in other words non-Christians, have a settled right to the interment of the dead in the cemetery, in question, however repugnant such a fact may be to Protestants. As we have said on previous occasions, we view with mild surprise that feeling which is averse from the interment of the bones of those who in life held opposite religious views or held none whatever, but the feeling exists and, of course, is to be entirely respected. What we are more particularly interested in at present is the financial side of the question. Where is the money necessary to carry out the scheme outlined in the Colonial Secretary's letter to be found? The Director of Public Works estimates the cost at approximately \$12,000, but from long and sad experience of Government undertakings we all know perfectly well that official estimates have an unfortunate habit of swelling to huge amounts far beyond the expenditure originally contemplated. Even \$12,000 is no feasible in these hard-up days, when retrenchment is in the air and officials are quaking in their shoes lest they be summarily dismissed, and everybody is on tenterhooks to know how the Colony is to avoid financial embarrassment in the near future. Mr. Shelton Hooper fully recognised the difficulties in the way of dealing with this question, which, he said, embodied a suggestion submitted by himself last March. His remedy was to limit the graves to 500 which would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Buddhist population for the next 20 years. The probability is however that the reduced scheme would cost almost as much as the larger proposal presented by the Director of Public Works. The curious idea was conveyed by Mr. Lau Chu Pak that the suggestion contemplated a cemetery for Japanese. Buddhists only, but as Mr. Hewitt very properly said the whole community was agreed that when it came to a question of burying the dead, which was one of the most important items of our Colonial Government, and one which affected the sentiments of everybody irrespective of nationality or creed, there was no question of nationality. He was perfectly sure that the Government of Hongkong would make no distinction between Chinese, Japanese or European Buddhists. The question was the provision of a burial ground for Buddhists, which he presumed also included Confucianists and Taoists. They were dealing with the question of the burial of that religious sect without any regard to nationality, and he was sure that was the intention of the Hongkong Government. The interesting fact was brought out by Mr. Shelton Hooper that there are 27 cemeteries in the Colony which one would think should be quite enough for the needs of the inhabitants specially as so have been restricted to Chinese interments. But no provision is made for the Japanese; so what is to become of these when they die we cannot say. As a matter of fact we had always understood that the Buddhist religion prescribed cremation after death, in which case a cemetery and not a cemetery would be required, but it may be that the Buddhist rites are made

THE QUESTION OF CEMETERIES.

(7th July.)

More interest appears to be evoked at the Sanitary Board on the question of graves than is often given to matters of more importance to the living members of the community. At yesterday's meeting the main theme of discussion was the provision of a cemetery for Buddhists which arose in connection with a letter received from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that His Excellency the Governor has the question under consideration. What will strike those readers who have followed the debates on this subject generally is the fact that the Government practically admits the soundness of Mr. Ho Kom Tong's contention that the Colonial Secretary is properly open to all those for whom special reservations have not been made. Otherwise, why should it be necessary "to set apart and dedicate a portion of the Colonial cemetery for Christians" if the whole ground in the past has been devoted exclusively to Protestants? The proposal now is to prepare an area in the Sookpoo valley capable of containing 1,000 graves, at an estimated cost of \$12,000. His Excellency, we read in the Colonial Secretary's letter to the Sanitary Board, "hopes to provide for this expenditure in next year's budget, but in the meantime it is proposed to set apart and dedicate a portion of the Colonial cemetery for Christians and in that portion Buddhist or other non-Christian burial rites will be prohibited. As, however, the practice of their religious rites was guaranteed to all nations and creeds by the proclamation of the 1st February, 1841, and as Buddhists have at the present time no place except the Colonial cemetery in which to bury their dead, His Excellency considers that it would be unwise to interfere with their rites in the remote part of the cemetery in which they are practised and which it is not proposed to include in the Christian cemetery." So that after all, outsiders, or in other words non-Christians, have a settled right to the interment of the dead in the cemetery, in question, however repugnant such a fact may be to Protestants. As we have said on previous occasions, we view with mild surprise that feeling which is averse from the interment of the bones of those who in life held opposite religious views or held none whatever, but the feeling exists and, of course, is to be entirely respected. What we are more particularly interested in at present is the financial side of the question. Where is the money necessary to carry out the scheme outlined in the Colonial Secretary's letter to be found? The Director of Public Works estimates the cost at approximately \$12,000, but from long and sad experience of Government undertakings we all know perfectly well that official estimates have an unfortunate habit of swelling to huge amounts far beyond the expenditure originally contemplated. Even \$12,000 is no feasible in these hard-up days, when retrenchment is in the air and officials are quaking in their shoes lest they be summarily dismissed, and everybody is on tenterhooks to know how the Colony is to avoid financial embarrassment in the near future. Mr. Shelton Hooper fully recognised the difficulties in the way of dealing with this question, which, he said, embodied a suggestion submitted by himself last March. His remedy was to limit the graves to 500 which would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Buddhist population for the next 20 years. The probability is however that the reduced scheme would cost almost as much as the larger proposal presented by the Director of Public Works. The curious idea was conveyed by Mr. Lau Chu Pak that the suggestion contemplated a cemetery for Japanese. Buddhists only, but as Mr. Hewitt very properly said the whole community was agreed that when it came to a question of burying the dead, which was one of the most important items of our Colonial Government, and one which affected the sentiments of everybody irrespective of nationality or creed, there was no question of nationality. He was perfectly sure that the Government of Hongkong would make no distinction between Chinese, Japanese or European Buddhists. The question was the provision of a burial ground for Buddhists, which he presumed also included Confucianists and Taoists. They were dealing with the question of the burial of that religious sect without any regard to nationality, and he was sure that was the intention of the Hongkong Government. The interesting fact was brought out by Mr. Shelton Hooper that there are 27 cemeteries in the Colony which one would think should be quite enough for the needs of the inhabitants specially as so have been restricted to Chinese interments. But no provision is made for the Japanese; so what is to become of these when they die we cannot say. As a matter of fact we had always understood that the Buddhist religion prescribed cremation after death, in which case a cemetery and not a cemetery would be required, but it may be that the Buddhist rites are made

THE FAR EASTERN SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

(8th July.)

Recent exchanges from Singapore are full of articles dealing with the report of the Royal Commission on Shipping Rings, which sat in London for many months, obtained an extensive amount of expert evidence, mostly contradictory, and which has now issued a majority and a minority report which clash on almost every point. Of course the Singapore papers deal only with that section of the complete report referring to the Straits Settlements and no mention, so far as we can see at a cursory glance, is made of the system of rings and rebates as they affect Hongkong. It will be admitted, however, that the circumstances of Singapore and Hongkong as entrepôts of trade are very similar, if not precisely analogous, and the quotations which appear in the Straits papers will show how the "conference" scheme has affected that port. It should be stated that the majority report is signed by those who to a certain extent represent the great shipping interests, while the minority report gives the views of those who may be termed outsiders, including such a well-known authority on finance as Sir David Barbour. In the Descriptive and Historical chapter, the majority view is it is noted that according to Mr. R. D. Holt (of Messrs. Alfred Holt and Co., Liverpool), a Conference with a rebate system existed in the home trade from the Straits in the years 1885-7. The Conference was discontinued from 1887 to 1895, in which year it was reconstituted and continued, though without a rebate system, until 1895, when it broke up. During this period it was, however, apparently quite ineffectual. It was re-established in 1897, and the means adopted to impose the rebate system in that year were of so peculiar a character as to deserve special notice. Singapore, which, like Penang, and it might have been added Hongkong, is a free port, is not itself a producing centre; but its situation on the direct highway connecting the East and West has given it great natural advantages for the development of an entrepôt trade. The Commission appointed in the Straits Settlements in 1903 describes Singapore as the "natural collecting centre for the West Coast of Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Java, Borneo, Moluccas, Celebes, and other countries." Rates on freight were, on the average, low, although liable to fluctuations which might at certain seasons be as much as 100 per cent. By this time the relation of the outward to the homeward trade had changed, and more tonnage came to be required for the general trade outward to the East than was needed for the carriage of produce homewards. Competition for cargo was therefore very keen, and the large merchant at Singapore was almost in a position to dictate his terms to the steamship lines. If the steamship lines were combined for the purpose of exacting minimum rates, the large merchant could, by chartering a vessel for his own cargo and filling up with that of other merchants, make such a combination ineffective. Moreover, tramp tonnage freighted outwards with coal was readily supplied in response to any great rise in rates. The strength of the merchants was further increased by the fact that they were few in number and many of them big shippers, and that much of the produce was very suitable for chartering. The report states that the shipowners attempted to form a combination at the end of 1896 for the purpose of putting up their rates. It was not, however, until the beginning of the following year that the Conference was formed, and it may be doubted whether it was effective until the end of that year, when an agreement was entered into between the Conference Lines and the most powerful of the merchants of Singapore. This agreement has hitherto been regarded as a confidential character, though many of its features were well known to the Straits Settlements Commission of 1903. With the permission of the Straits Homeward Conference, it is published in the Commission's report and should prove of interest to the shipping community generally. The parties to the agreement are the Conference Lines on the one hand, and certain merchant firms (Messrs. Adamson, Gilliland and Co., Messrs. Behu Meyer and Co., and Messrs. E. Boustead and Co.) known as the "freight agents" on the other. The main features of the agreement are as follows:—The freight agents agree to discontinue chartering or shipping to European ports by sailing vessels or steamers (sailing vessels to Marseilles excepted), other than those belonging to the Conference Lines. They also agree to do their best to prevent opposition and to maintain freight at a paying level. In return the shipowners agree that when

ever the average rate of freight on cargo loaded in the Straits during a certain period amounts to 25s. or over per scale ton, they will pay into a common fund 5 per cent. on the gross amount of the freight (with certain exceptions) so loaded in "Conference steamers" or to via European ports. Contributions to the fund are to be handed by them to Messrs. E. Boustead & Co., and to be distributed by the freight agents amongst themselves and such other firms supporting the Conference as the freight agents may decide to admit into the Conference. Only 10 or 12 firms participate in the fund mentioned, and these it is said represent about 60 per cent. of the trade. The majority of them are also agents for steamship lines; but there are seven firms of merchants (five at Singapore and two at Penang) which hold such agencies, and nevertheless do not participate in the special dividend. The right to share in this dividend, it appears, is not granted as a matter of course to any merchants whose shipments are on a scale similar to those of the participants; but, in order to obtain it, a firm must show, either by chartering outside tonnage or by threatening to do so, that they are prepared to fight the Conference unless the privilege is accorded to them. The amount of the special commission is not distributed either equally or in proportion to the amount of cargo supplied, though apparently in the first instance the basis of distribution was the former amount of chartering business. The proportion to be received by any firm subsequently admitted is determined by negotiation between the participants and the newcomer. With regard to the minority report the following statement appears: "We have called attention to the waste caused by the limitations which the Shipping Rings impose on the movements and action of tramp steamers. There is, however, another aspect of the matter which has not been sufficiently examined. When tramp steamers, which are mainly British, are excluded from certain branches of trade, they are replaced by liners. The latter may be foreign or British steamers, and so far as they are foreign, the final result is probably a diminution of the amount of British shipping. Evidence to this effect comes from the Straits Settlements. Sir Walter Egerton's statement was to the following effect: The establishment of a conference by the chief shipping lines with deferred rebates compelled merchants to ship by the Conference Lines, as these were the only lines giving quick and regular communication with Europe. The result was tramp steamers, colliers, &c., were unable to obtain return freight, and ceased to call. I am convinced that the establishment of the Conference helped the able management of the Norddeutscher Lloyd to double the number of their steamers and greatly increase their size. I believe British lines can work at lower rates than foreign ones, and that but for the carrying trade having been made so profitable by the increased Conference rates the increased foreign tonnage would have been much less. One witness contended that the rates of freight charged by the Conference steamers were exorbitant, being founded on a scale suited to what the shippers could endure without being strained to breaking point. Incidentally, there are comparisons made between freights charged to the smaller ports on the Continent and in the United Kingdom showing considerable advantage in favour of the foreign over the British buyer. In an editorial in the Straits Times we learn that the general position in the case of the Straits differs materially from that elsewhere. There the system of deferred rebates common to all conference arrangements, is complicated by the extra rebate. "An agreement," the majority report says, "has been made by the conference with certain of the more powerful merchant firms granting them a considerable preference in the form of an extra rebate." And the comment made is that "The circumstances in this case are very exceptional and may, if the course adopted be persisted in, call for legislation. That is almost the only emphatic statement contained in the report. In another paragraph the secret rebate is described as a few merchants able to charter. These firms command considerably more than half the total of the local exports, and it is a perfectly well-known fact that before the conference arrangements were made they did charter vessels of their own, and did succeed in sending home their goods at a much lower rate per ton than the small merchants who had to haggle as best they could for spare corners in the ships over which their big rivals had a practically unlimited control. The suggestion of the writer in our Southern contemporary is "that if the smaller firms will boldly adopt the suggestion of forming an export combine, and face the responsibility of chartering for their own requirements it will not be long before the Conference comes to them cap in hand and proposes a new basis of agreement. There is far more hope in that than in any legislation which either the local or the Imperial Legislature could pass in the face of such reports as the Royal Commissioners have issued."

PHASES OF THE RAILWAY BILL.

Any one who has gone through the interminable legal phrases on which the new Railway Ordinance is framed can well understand that long before the 60th section was reached members of the Legislative Council must have been thoroughly tired of the endless string of words. Indeed we can conceive of nothing more calculated to exercise a soporific effect on the listener than the recital of a long Ordinance—un-

less it be a rural dean's sermon in a country church on a summer's day—and it is not surprising to learn that many heads were nodding and minds wandering even when the Clerk of Councils had only reached the half way house, so to speak. The introduction of this Ordinance, however, marks another stage in the progress of the railway, and hints that the time is fast approaching when the railway administration will be called into being and the powers granted that body for the due management of the railway brought into full play. It may be asked: "What is the 'railway administration'?" The Ordinance declares that the railway administration means the manager and such other person or persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint to conduct the affairs of the railway. That is vague enough to be sure, and places on the shoulders of the Governor unnecessarily heavy responsibility, but if His Excellency is prepared to assume the duties implied in the definition of "the railway administration" then we have no right to complain. At present the railway administration consists of the Chief Resident Engineer, or such other person or persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint to supervise the said construction." The Bill amends its way gently through the various clauses without attracting much attention: until, when several of the members, as if in remembrance of past follies, woke up to learn what it would cost them to indulge in the sport of outwitting the ticket-collector by evading payment of their fares. It may be as well to inform those who were once addicted to this practice that they will be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50. Again should some careless—of a forethought—individual take a ticket for Samchoh and inadvertently, of set purpose, travel all the way to Canton he also may be mulcted in the sum of \$50. While a similar maximum penalty awaits the humorist who takes out a third-class ticket and seriously travels first. Smoking or chewing tobacco or opium in places set apart for females or non-smokers is also an offence and the stationmaster has power to eject the delinquent from the premises pertaining to the railway and to decline to return his fare. We confess we do not understand the precise meaning to be placed on the word "trespass" as applied to cattle which have wandered on to the line just at the point where the fences commence or end. Mr. Osborne raised this question of fences by asking if there was any clause compelling the railway administration to put up fences along the railway? and he was told: by His Excellency the Governor that: "If they (animals) trespass on the line and it is not fenced there is no offence." That may be so, but the Attorney-General specifically declared that it was not proposed to fence the entire line on account of the great expense that would be incurred. In that case, we presume, there would be points where the fence ended abruptly at the side of the track. What would then be the hindrance to an animal, especially a buffalo which has a decided penchant for doing that which it ought not to do, from clambering on to the unfenced portion of the line and thence proceeding along the track until it found itself fenced in on both sides and unable to leave the line when a train approached? It is all very well, to say: "No fence, no fine," but that is not an adequate answer to the question originally submitted by Mr. Osborne. As he said in another connection: the law gave full power to the railway administration to compel people to do what that body wanted, but there was nothing in it to compel the railway to do what the people had a right to demand should be done. So there the matter rests. The question of compelling the railway administration to take practical measures which would prevent sparks flying from the funnels of engines setting the dry grass lands on fire also cropped up. The Government pool-pooled the idea, until it was pointed out that such a regulation prevailed in England. Most people can remember the enormous damage that used to be done to standing crops and haystacks in the United Kingdom by the sparks from passing engines, until the authorities stepped in and ordered the railway companies to mend matters. Nowadays, such conflagrations are seldom heard of; all as the result of the precautions adopted against the emission of flaming brands from the railway engines. It is well-known, that in Hongkong grass fires occur annually during the dry season, usually from unknown causes, but the danger of such outbreaks would be immensely increased if the railway administration were to spread abroad promiscuously the means of setting the whole country-side on fire. Fortunately the Government saw the point of Mr. Osborne's argument and agreed to postpone the passing of the Bill until he had found time to frame a clause which could meet the difficulty. It is impossible to decide whether the Bill is good or bad until we see it in actual practice but, as presumably, it is framed on the lines laid down in Indian laws on the subject the probability is that it will meet the necessities of the railway administration in Hongkong.

less it be a rural dean's sermon in a country church on a summer's day—and it is not surprising to learn that many heads were nodding and minds wandering even when the Clerk of Councils had only reached the half way house, so to speak. The introduction of this Ordinance, however, marks another stage in the progress of the railway, and hints that the time is fast approaching when the railway administration will be called into being and the powers granted that body for the due management of the railway brought into full play. It may be asked: "What is the 'railway administration'?" The Ordinance declares that the railway administration means the manager and such other person or persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint to supervise the said construction." The Bill amends its way gently through the various clauses without attracting much attention: until, when several of the members, as if in remembrance of past follies, woke up to learn what it would cost them to indulge in the sport of outwitting the ticket-collector by evading payment of their fares. It may be as well to inform those who were once addicted to this practice that they will be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50. Again should some careless—of a forethought—individual take a ticket for Samchoh and inadvertently, of set purpose, travel all the way to Canton he also may be mulcted in the sum of \$50. While a similar maximum penalty awaits the humorist who takes out a third-class ticket and seriously travels first. Smoking or chewing tobacco or opium in places set apart for females or non-smokers is also an offence and the stationmaster has power to eject the delinquent from the premises pertaining to the railway and to decline to return his fare. We confess we do not understand the precise meaning to be placed on the word "trespass" as applied to cattle which have wandered on to the line just at the point where the fences commence or end. Mr. Osborne raised this question of fences by asking if there was any clause compelling the railway administration to put up fences along the railway? and he was told: by His Excellency the Governor that: "If they (animals) trespass on the line and it is not fenced there is no offence." That may be so, but the Attorney-General specifically declared that it was not proposed to fence the entire line on account of the great expense that would be incurred. In that case, we presume, there would be points where the fence ended abruptly at the side of the track. What would then be the hindrance to an animal, especially a buffalo which has a decided penchant for doing that which it ought not to do, from clambering on to the unfenced portion of the line and thence proceeding along the track until it found itself fenced in on both sides and unable to leave the line when a train approached? It is all very well, to say: "No fence, no fine," but that is not an adequate answer to the question originally submitted by Mr. Osborne. As he said in another connection: the law gave full power to the railway administration to compel people to do what that body wanted, but there was nothing in it to compel the railway to do what the people had a right to demand should be done. So there the matter rests. The question of compelling the railway administration to take practical measures which would prevent sparks flying from the funnels of engines setting the dry grass lands on fire also cropped up. The Government pool-pooled the idea, until it was pointed out that such a regulation prevailed in England. Most people can remember the enormous damage that used to be done to standing crops and haystacks in the United Kingdom by the sparks from passing engines, until the authorities stepped in and ordered the railway companies to mend matters. Nowadays, such conflagrations are seldom heard of; all as the result of the precautions adopted against the emission of flaming brands from the railway engines. It is well-known, that in Hongkong grass fires occur annually during the dry season, usually from unknown causes, but the danger of such outbreaks would be immensely increased if the railway administration were to spread abroad promiscuously the means of setting the whole country-side on fire. Fortunately the Government saw the point of Mr. Osborne's argument and agreed to postpone the passing of the Bill until he had found time to frame a clause which could meet the difficulty. It is impossible to decide whether the Bill is good or bad until we see it in actual practice but, as presumably, it is framed on the lines laid down in Indian laws on the subject the probability is that it will meet the necessities of the railway administration in Hongkong.

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less it be a rural dean's sermon in a country church on a summer's day—and it is not surprising to learn that many heads were nodding and minds wandering even when the Clerk of Councils had only reached the half way house, so to speak. The introduction of this Ordinance, however, marks another stage in the progress of the railway, and hints that the time is fast approaching when the railway administration will be called into being and the powers granted that body for the due management of the railway brought into full play. It may be asked: "What is the 'railway administration'?" The Ordinance declares that the railway administration means the manager and such other person or persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint to supervise the said construction." The Bill amends its way gently through the various clauses without attracting much attention: until, when several of the members, as if in remembrance of past follies, woke up to learn what it would cost them to indulge in the sport of outwitting the ticket-collector by evading payment of their fares. It may be as well to inform those who were once addicted to this practice that they will be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50. Again should some careless—of a forethought—individual take a ticket for Samchoh and inadvertently, of set purpose, travel all the way to Canton he also may be mulcted in the sum of \$50. While a similar maximum penalty awaits the humorist who takes out a third-class ticket and seriously travels first. Smoking or chewing tobacco or opium in places set apart for females or non-smokers is also an offence and the stationmaster has power to eject the delinquent from the premises pertaining to the railway and to decline to return his fare. We confess we do not understand the precise meaning to be placed on the word "trespass" as applied to cattle which have wandered on to the line just at the point where the fences commence or end. Mr. Osborne raised this question of fences by asking if there was any clause compelling the railway administration to put up fences along the railway? and he was told: by His Excellency the Governor that: "If they (animals) trespass on the line and it is not fenced there is no offence." That may be so, but the Attorney-General specifically declared that it was not proposed to fence the entire line on account of the great expense that would be incurred. In that case, we presume, there would be points where the fence ended abruptly at the side of the track. What would then be the hindrance to an animal, especially a buffalo which has a decided penchant for doing that which it ought not to do, from clambering on to the unfenced portion of the line and thence proceeding along the track until it found itself fenced in on both sides and unable to leave the line when a train approached? It is all very well, to say: "No fence, no fine," but that is not an adequate answer to the question originally submitted by Mr. Osborne. As he said in another connection: the law gave full power to the railway administration to compel people to do what that body wanted, but there was nothing in it to compel the railway to do what the people had a right to demand should be done. So there the matter rests. The question of compelling the railway administration to take practical measures which would prevent sparks flying from the funnels of engines setting the dry grass lands on fire also cropped up. The Government pool-pooled the idea, until it was pointed out that such a regulation prevailed in England. Most people can remember the enormous damage that used to be done to standing crops and haystacks in the United Kingdom by the sparks from passing engines, until the authorities stepped in and ordered the railway companies to mend matters. Nowadays, such conflagrations are seldom heard of; all as the result of the precautions adopted against the emission of flaming brands from the railway engines. It is well-known, that in Hongkong grass fires occur annually during the dry season, usually from unknown causes, but the danger of such outbreaks would be immensely increased if the railway administration were to spread abroad promiscuously the means of setting the whole country-side on fire. Fortunately the Government saw the point of Mr. Osborne's argument and agreed to postpone the passing of the Bill until he had found time to frame a clause which could meet the difficulty. It is impossible to decide whether the Bill is good or bad until we see it in actual practice but, as presumably, it is framed on the lines laid down in Indian laws on the subject the probability is that it will meet the necessities of the railway administration in Hongkong.

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PHASES OF THE RAILWAY BILL.

Any one who

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.
NANKING VICEROYALTY.
TUAN FANG'S DEPARTURE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
The acting Viceroy of Nanking, Fang Chang-chun, will take over the seal of office (pending the arrival of Na Tung) on the 8th inst.
Viceroy Tuan Fang will leave for Peking on or about the 12th inst.

CHANG-JEN CHUN.

A TACTFUL VICEROY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
The Prince Regent yesterday made the remark to the Grand Councilors that H.E. Chang Jen-chun, Viceroy of Canton, is tactful in the matter of handling dissatisfaction tending to lead to abortive risings and has been eminently successful in his intercourse with foreigners.

H.E. Chang's promotion to Nanking is calculated to relieve the Central Government of much anxiety.

TANG SHAO-YI.

ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
Tang Shao-yi arrived in Peking on the 18th inst. He has brought back with him a number of standard and valuable works on currency and finance.

VICEROY TUAN FANG.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
Viceroy Tuan Fang has telegraphed to the Grand Council praying for an application, in his behalf, of two months' leave of absence so that he might settle all pending matters at Nanking before starting for his new post.

PROMOTING INDUSTRIES.

NEW OFFICE SUGGESTED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
At his audience with the Prince Regent, Viceroy Tuan Fang has resolved to ask for the appointment of a Superintendent of Industries whose duties it will be to proceed to the South Sea and stimulate interest in the promotion of Chinese industries. His Excellency will also suggest that the products of all native enterprises should be admitted into the country duty free.

EX-SHANGHAI TAOTAI.

SUFFERING FROM EYE COMPLAINT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
Leung Yu-ho, ex-Shanghai Taotai, has applied for four months' sick leave in order to enable him to proceed abroad to consult an expert ophthalmist.

TIENSIN-PUKOU RAILWAY.

DIRECTORSHIP DECLINED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
The acting Governor of Shan-tung, Shun Po-ki, has declined the appointment of director-general of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway in addition as acting Governor on the plea that he cannot attend to the duties of the dual office.

Over sixty Germans are employed on the Tientsin-Pukou Railway.

The representatives of Chihli Province have urged the Director-General to dispense with the services of the Germans in order to prevent foreigners from having any excuse to interfere with Chinese rights.

CHIHLI PROVINCE.

ALLEGED MALPRACTICES.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
The Prince Regent has given instructions to Acting Viceroy Na Tung to inquire into the alleged malpractices in the Chihli Province.

that when Viceroy Tuan Fang arrives he will be prepared to prosecute the investigations forthwith.

PRINCE CHEN.

ARRIVAL IN TOKIO.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 2nd July.
Prince Chen arrived in Tokio on the 1st inst., and will be received in audience by the Emperor to-day.

SIR ROBERT HART.

RETURN TO CHINA URGED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 4th July.
The Grand Council has telegraphed to Lord Li Ching-fong, Chinese Minister to London, directing him to urge Sir Robert Hart to return to China to assist in carrying out the scheme for the abolition of likin and the increase of duties.

VICEROY CHANG.

DECLINES PROMOTION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 4th July.
Viceroy Chang Jen-chun has telegraphed declining to accept the appointment as Viceroy of Nanking on the plea of incompetency.
The Grand Councilors have, however, succeeded in prevailing upon Viceroy Chang to withdraw his refusal.

THE TUNGKUANSHAN CONCESSION.

EARLY SETTLEMENT DESIRED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 4th July.
The Prince Regent has given instructions to have the Tungkuanshan mining concession differences settled at an early date, care to be exercised not to strain the amicable relations with a friendly Power; at the same time the terms of this settlement should be so concluded as not to incur the displeasure of the people.

MANCHURIA.

MAP SKETCHING PROHIBITED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 4th July.
H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces, has requested the Central Government to notify the Foreign Powers to prevent foreigners from making sketches of the Three Eastern Provinces on the pretext of their being travellers.

TIENSIN-PUKOU RAILWAY.

THE QUESTION OF CONTROL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 4th July.
Shu Shih-chang, president of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, proposes to place the Tientsin-Pukou Railway under the control of the Ministry.
The majority of the Grand Councilors are in favour of the proposal.

The gentry and merchants of Chihli Province have insisted on Lui Hoi-wan dispensing with the services of the Germans on the railway.

The Germans have lodged a complaint with Lei Tak-sun.

The gentry and merchants of Chihli Province have had pamphlets printed and distributed exposing the alleged malpractices in regard to the Tientsin-Pukou Railway.

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NA TUNG.

ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF CUSTOMS SUPERINTENDENCY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 5th July.
In view of the numerous duties attaching to the Viceroyship of Chihli, Na Tung has applied to be relieved from the office of Superintendent of Customs.

PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

A PROFITABLE UNDERTAKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
The Ministry of Posts and Communications has reported that the receipts of the Peking-Hankow Railway for the five months of the current year have amounted to five million taels, being an increase of

Tls. 700,000 over that of the corresponding period last year.

VICEROY CHANG JEN-CHUN.

RELINQUISHING OFFICE NEXT WEEK.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
Viceroy Chang Jen-chun has telegraphed to the Grand Council advising that he has fixed the 18th inst. as the date on which he will hand over his seals of office and that as soon as all matters are arranged he will proceed to take up his new appointment.

VICEROY TUAN FANG.

DEPARTURE FOR PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
Viceroy Tuan Fang has changed the date for handing over the seal of office to the 11th inst.
The date of his departure for Peking has not yet been settled.

Later.
There are persistent rumours in Peking that Na Tung has received the substantive appointment as Viceroy of Chihli and that Viceroy Tuan Fang will enter the Grand Council.

[A report was current in Shanghai last week to the effect that Viceroy Tuan Fang will enter the Grand Council and H.E. Na Tung will be appointed substantive Viceroy in Tientsin, and that the reason for the change is that, owing to his leg complaints, H.E. Na Tung finds it extremely inconvenient to attend the Grand Council Chamber and audiences with the Throne.—Ed., H.K.T.]

NA TUNG.

FAMILY'S ARRIVAL IN TIENSIN.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
Na Tung's family arrived in Peking on the 5th inst.

LEGATION GUARDS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
Germany has replaced the Legation Guards by marines and has applied for the use of the Kwang-ming Lake to hold naval manoeuvres.
The Walwupu has strenuously opposed the application.

RAILWAY LOANS.

AMERICAN PARTICIPATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
It is reported that Great Britain has agreed to the United States participating in the loan for the Szechuan-Hankow Railway to the extent of 25 per cent.

NEW CANTON VICEROY.

EAGER TO ASSUME DUTIES.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 6th July.
H.E. Yuan Shu-fun, Viceroy-designate of the two Kwang, has despatched a telegram to Shun Po-ki urging him to proceed to Shanghai forthwith to relieve him, so that he may be enabled to start for Canton to take up his appointment as Acting Viceroy.

ANHUI MINING CONCESSION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 7th July.
The Prince Regent has informed the Grand Council that, as all countries are watching the progress of negotiations respecting the Anhui Mining Concession, it is impossible to consent to the Fabian policy adopted by H.E. Liang Tun-yen, president of the Walwupu, in handling the matter.

FAMINE IN THE NORTH.

REPORT CALLED FOR.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 7th July.
The Grand Council has telegraphed to the Viceroy of Shensi and Kansu for a report upon the sufferings of the people brought about by the drought with a view to subscriptions being raised in Peking and other Provinces for their relief.

MINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.

A PATRIOTIC ORGANISATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 7th July.
The Mines Protection Society in Honan Province has telegraphed to the Walwupu, charging the Ministry with alleged favouritism to foreigners in selling their own country.
It is stated in the telegram that the people in Honan would sooner surrender their lives than recognise the validity of the (Tung-kuan-shan) agreement.
Upon the receipt of this telegram the Ministers of the Walwupu became greatly exercised and applied to the Grand Council for directions for their guidance.

CHIHLI PROVINCE.

FINANCIAL MUDDLE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 7th July.
The financial affairs in Chihli Province are in such a tangle that Na Tung does not propose to unravel it.

Matters will remain in *status quo* until Tuan Fang arrives.

OPIUM REVENUE.

HOW TO BE MADE UP.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 8th July.
The officials of Honan Province have memorialized for permission to open up mines in order to create new services of revenue to make up for the loss of the opium revenue.

ANTI-OPIUM CRUSADE.

RECALL OF OPIUM HABITS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 8th July.
Prince Kung, Luk Chin-lum and other Anti-Opium Commissioners have decided to recall to Peking all officials suspected of being addicted to the opium habit.

TIENSIN-PUKOU RAILWAY.

GERMAN REPRESENTATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 8th July.
The German Minister in Peking has asked Lei Hoi-wan, director-general of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, not to give heed to false rumours thereby dispensing with the services of Lei Tak-sun.
Lei Hoi-wan has declined to comply with the request.

FAMINE IN NORTH CHINA.

THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 8th July.
The Acting Viceroy of Shensi and Kansu has telegraphed to the Grand Council that the gentry of the two Provinces have already taken measures to afford relief to the sufferers (by the recent drought) whose condition is not so bad as it was at first feared.

ANOTHER RAILWAY.

THE LOK-TUNG LINE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 8th July.
A loan of two million taels at five per cent has been arranged with the Ta Ching Bank for the construction of the Lok Tung Railway.

RAILWAY RIGHTS.

PROTECTION DESIRED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Peking, 8th July.
The Ministry of Posts and Communications has submitted a memorial urging for railway guards and praying the Government to legislate with a view to making the destruction of railway property a punishable offence and to provide for the rights and privileges of shareholders in all railway concerns.

RAINS IN THE NORTH.

FLOODS FEARED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."] Shanghai, 8th July.
There has been heavy rainfall in Hunan, Hupoh, Anhui and Chekiang.
It is feared that there might be floods, in consequence, in those provinces.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The following telegrams were received from the Manila Observatory at the American Consulate-General:—
7th July, 1909, at noon.
Low pressure area over N. China Sea. A typhoon may develop in it to the N.E. of Paracel.
8th July, 11.40 a.m.
Depression Northern part China Sea.

THE PRATAS ISLAND QUESTION.

REPORTED SETTLEMENT.
We (Japan Chronicle) learn from the *Osaka Asahi* that the Japanese Government has agreed to recognise the territorial right of China in Pratas Island, but at the same time has asked the Chinese Government for the recognition and protection of the business of Mr. Nishikawa, the Japanese who has occupied the island for the purpose of shipping phosphates therefrom. Mr. Nishikawa, it is stated, has no intention of continuing his business on the island, if it is decided to be Chinese territory, as he might be involved in troubles. The Japanese Government has therefore proposed that the Chinese Government shall either purchase Mr. Nishikawa's business or pay him compensation on his withdrawal from the island. Viceroy Chang of Kwangtung has agreed to purchase the business of Mr. Nishikawa, the price to be settled between Japanese and Chinese commissioners. Mr. Segawa, Japanese Consul at Canton, will be appointed the Japanese commissioner.

The *Osaka Journal* says that at first Mr. Nishikawa demanded from the Chinese Government a compensation to the extent of some ¥400,000 while the Chinese authorities made a counter-claim for damage based on the pulling down of a temple and the driving away of Chinese fishermen from the island. The difficulty has, however, been settled by a compromise between the Viceroy of Kwangtung and Mr. Segawa, the Japanese Consul at Canton. Mr. Nishikawa agreeing to withdraw from the island merely on payment of compensation by the Chinese Government, to be arranged as stated. It is stated that Mr. Asano, President of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, contributed ¥60,000 towards the funds invested in the business on the island and the remainder was advanced by the Bank of Formosa and other private capitalists.

CAPTAIN P. B. Seward, Royal Garrison Artillery, who has been appointed to do duty with the Peking Legation Guard, has served in the Royal Artillery for close on eleven years and is an expert in gunnery matters. He went through the South African War, 1899-1900, and shared in various honours in the Transvaal, being employed for some time as a staff officer. He was mentioned in dispatches and received the Queen's medal with three clasps.

H.E. Chang Jen-chun.

CONGRATULATORY VISITS.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESSES BY LOCAL COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATIONS.
[From Our Own Correspondent.] Canton, 3rd July.

In appreciation of the excellent services of H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen-chun during his administration of the two Kwang Provinces, the Nisa Charitable Institutions, the Seventy-two guilds, the Self-Government Society, the Central Relief Committee and other Associations in Canton are preparing addresses and gifts, in the shape of embroidered hangings, umbrellas, &c., to be presented to him before his departure from Canton. H.E. Chang has proved himself to be a very energetic official and has done a great deal in reforming the administration besides promoting education and industry, during the term of office in Canton, thus earning great popularity of the officials, gentry and populace. H.E. Chang's promotion from the Liang Kwang Viceroyalty to Nanking is much regretted by the people of the two Kwang Provinces.

Owing to his being about to relinquish the reins of office H.E. Chang Jen-chun has issued a notification to inform the public that he has ceased to receive petitions from the 2nd inst.

BRITISH CONSUL'S CONGRATULATIONS.

At 11 o'clock this morning H.E. Viceroy Chang received Mr. H. H. Fox, acting British Consul-General at Canton. The purpose of the Consul's visit was to tender congratulations to the Viceroy on his recent Viceregal promotion.

ACTING VICEROYSHIP.

Pending the arrival of the New Viceroy, Y. E. Yuan, the Provincial Treasurer, Wu Seung Lum, has been authorized to take temporary charge of the Viceroy's Yamen. The Provincial Treasury thus vacated will be filled for the time being by the present Provincial Educational Commissioner Shum, Tsang Tung, as it is reported, and Taotai Cheng Sik Fan will be made temporary Educational Commissioner, and Taotai Kwok Jen-chung, Taotai of the prefectures of Yumchow and Linchow *ad interim*.

PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE.

6th July.
It is learnt that besides ordinary gifts to be made in the form of silk hangings, umbrellas, &c., to be presented to H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen-chun on his departure from Canton, the local gentry and the committees of the various Societies and Institutions in this city at a meeting held the other day unanimously suggested to raise subscriptions with which to erect a memorial arch and build a statue of H.E. Chang Jen-chun in this city as a mark of appreciation for the excellent services rendered by him during his administration of the Liang Kwang provinces. A large number will be erected at the Tien Tsz Wharf, where the people will assemble to give a hearty send-off to H.E. Chang on his departure. Later on will be hung, commencing from the Viceroy's Yamen to as far as the bund, and will extend along the entire route by which H.E. Chang will proceed to the Tien Tsz Wharf. Vessels containing water with mirrors attached will be placed along the road for the purpose of emblematically pointing out that H.E. Chang's character is as clear as water and mirror. The local gentry and committees of the different societies and institutions further suggested that the steamer *Kwangtung* or *Kwangtung*, belonging to the Chinese Steamship Company, will be chartered to convey the people to Hongkong to see H.E. Chang Jen-chun off.

RECEPTION OF JAPANESE CONSUL.

H.E. Viceroy Chang received the Japanese Consul at Canton at 11 o'clock this morning.

DISPUTE BETWEEN CHINESE TRADERS.

RICE DEALERS AT LAW.

In the Summary Jurisdiction Court, last Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Gompertz, Hui Ching Kam, a merchant of 23, Tsz Mei Street, brought an action against Lam Che Chiu, of 17, Connaught Road West, to recover the sum of \$400 due for money lent and goods delivered, was charged as follows:—
Money lent on the 9th March, 1908—\$300.
Money lent on the 27th March—\$100.
Money lent on the 29th March—\$100.
Money paid by plaintiff to defendant for the purchase of a quantity of rice which defendant has failed to deliver—\$200.
Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff, while Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Bruton and Hart) represented the defendant.
The claim was brought as the result of certain transactions between the plaintiff and the defendant in the course of last year. A Chinese witness belonging to the Fook Ho Yung shop stated that on the 29th March last year, he went to plaintiff's shop on some business and saw defendant asking plaintiff for the loan of \$100. Plaintiff at first refused to lend the money, but on being assured by defendant that the latter would settle the outstanding account, he eventually agreed to let him have the amount. There was no receipt given for the sum. During the course of his evidence, witness stated that the usual way in which Chinese creditors approached debtors for the settlement of an account was to speak the words "Will you pay the money?"
After further evidence was adduced the case was adjourned.

UNKNOWN COOLIES' DEATH.

ROLLED OFF A WALL WHILE ASLEEP.
Another of those cases where death is brought about by one's own carelessness is to be placed on record. The facts go to show the stupidity or ignorance of some people.
Some time about ten o'clock last night a coolie, whose name is not known, and who evidently had no fixed place of abode, went to Blake Garden with the intention of passing the night there.
Sleeping in this garden is prohibited and numerous convictions have been entered against men, who have broken the rule. This man, undoubtedly, was aware of the law, because, instead of choosing a soft patch of turf or a bench for his bed, as is usually done by most of the unemployed, he took up a position on the top of a wall, as the northern end of the garden, where he would not be disturbed.

The width of the wall, where this man was to make his bed, could not be more than about five feet. The wall is easily reached from the garden side, and looks over into a lane some twenty feet below. Once he had reached the top of the wall he fell asleep, and during the night he must have turned over in his slumber, and fell to the lane below.

His dead body was found by a district watchman and sent to the morgue for identification, but up to the time of writing he is not known. Deceased was nearly forty years of age.

Brutal Murder.

FOREST GUARD DONE TO DEATH.

REVENUE BELIEVED TO BE THE MOTIVE.

A Chinaman, about thirty years of age, whose name has not yet been obtained, but who is believed to have been a Forest Guard in the employ of the Government, was brutally done to death yesterday on the road between Shau-ki-wan and Stanley.

The body was found by a wayfarer, who was on his way to Shau-ki-wan West, lying face downwards, on the Chai Wan Gap, which is midway between the two places already mentioned.

All the circumstances point to murder. The body was lying across the road when discovered, a white sun hat being found some distance away, which belonged to the deceased. The number and position of the wounds on the body go to show that the unfortunate man was attacked by several persons and from behind. There were wounds at the back of the head, legs, arms and back, which were inflicted by blunt instruments, which have not been found by the police.

Chai Wan, as already stated, is a village situated near Stanley and Shau-ki-wan. The village is well populated, and its inhabitants have earned the name for themselves as "tree stealers"—a reason, so it is reported, for a tax being levied on them for the constant destruction of trees on the hillside.

It is presumed that if the deceased was a Forest Guard, which is the opinion of the police, he must have been in the habit of raising and having the villagers fined for destroying trees, thus getting himself into ill-favour with the result that he was waylaid yesterday and foully murdered. The motive then for putting away the man was revenge.

The police are making a close investigation in the hope of finding some clue which might lead to the capture of the murderers.

OBSTREPEROUS POLICEMEN.

THEIR BEHAVIOUR ON A JUNE.

The strange behaviour of two Chinese *luangs* on a cargo boat, which was then moored off the Praya West, was told to Mr. J. R. Wood (second police magistrate) in the Police Court, to-day, when *Luhong* No. 300 was charged with assaulting a boatman and attempting to secure a bribe from him.
Mr. Leo d'Almeida, of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, appeared for the prosecution. The *luangs* were defended by Mr. Otto Kong Sing.

The evidence taken to the effect that the defendant and another policeman, both of whom were in plain clothes, went out for a walk along the Praya West on the afternoon of the 28th June. Arriving at a certain point they noticed on board a cargo boat, which was moored alongside the praya wall, a number of men conducting a card game. The policeman went on board the craft, and the defendant held out of one of the men a consignment from whom he was asked to have demanded the sum of two dollars, otherwise he and his comrade would arrest the whole gang.

The boatman refused to pay the money and defendant struck him over the right eye with his fist, causing a nasty wound. The two policemen then attempted to get away. They were, however, pursued by the boat people. The defendant was captured by Police Constable Road West, took up the charge, and then his comrade was taken into custody. The defendant was seen to be in a state of alarm and was taken to the Police Station.

EVIDENCE TO THIS EFFECT WAS HEARD AT LENGTH, AFTER WHICH HIS WORSHIP FOUND DEFENDANT GUILTY OF THE ASSAULT AND IMPOSED A FINE OF \$50. THE CHARGE OF ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A BRIBE WILL BE DECEASED TO-MORROW MORNING.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

HOUSE COOLIE'S CLEVER TRICK LANDS A THIEF.

A very clever scheme to capture a thief was put through with great success yesterday by a house coolie in the employ of a family residing at 2, Kausford Terrace, Kowloon. The story was related in the Police Court, to-day, when a man named Yung Kau, of 26, Austin Road, was charged with the theft of three pieces of clothing, valued at \$10.
It was proved that for some time past the house coolie had lost a good deal of his personal property, principally clothing, from the basement of the house, where he slept. Although a watch was kept the clothing still disappeared.
The coolie, who was becoming desperate, formed a plan to catch the thief. Yesterday morning he secured a piece of string which he rigged up in the basement in such a way as to resemble a clothes line, over which the coolie hung two or three of his jackets. One end of the string led into another room, where the coolie was at work, and attached to that end was a ball.

The rest is known. In about ten minutes after the trap had been laid, the ball started to swing violently. The coolie rushed to the basement, there to find Yung Kau in the act of leaving with the three jackets.

Defendant pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

HIGH STAKES.

STRANGE STORY OF A GAMBLING AFFAIR.

A rather strange story was told the Chief Justice, in the Bankruptcy Jurisdiction Court, yesterday, when a bankrupt, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, sought to be adjudged bankrupt. An application was made for a Receiver Order.

Mr. F. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, appeared for the debtor. Mr. R. A. Harding, who represented the largest creditors, opposed the application.

The Official Receiver (Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher) told the Court the facts of the case as they were told to him. He said that debtor owned a shop at 184, Des Voeux Road Central, and also had a share, valued at \$1,000, but now worth \$1,000, in the Tung Shan Wing Company, in which firm he was engaged as managing partner. On the 1st June the debtor, who was still in the latter firm's employ, used the firm's cash to borrow \$1,000 from various Chinese banks. This money was required by the debtor to import rice from Singapore and from other southern ports. When debtor got the money he gambled it away, and was now indebted to the firm. But for that he would be solvent now.

Mr. Goldring observed that when debtor got the money he fell into the hands of an unscrupulous gang. They induced debtor to play a game of cards, through which he lost the entire sum. Debtor had nothing to do but to "go down" and "go down" he did. He was asked to "go down" by his own partner, and he did so. Mr. Harding said that he claimed that debtor converted the money to his own use. The Chief Justice—Is all the money gone? Mr. Goldring—All. What are his assets?—\$1,000. The Chief Justice refused the application.

The Cemetery Controversy.

BURIAL GROUND FOR BUDDHISTS.

CONFLICTING VIEWS.

The following letter from Government was received by the Sanitary Board and laid on the table at the meeting of the Board last Tuesday afternoon:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
29th June, 1909.

Sir—In reply to your letter No. 1432/09 of the 15th of last April, I am directed to state for the information of the Board that His Excellency the Governor has under consideration the question of opening a cemetery for Buddhists. The Director of Public Works has estimated that to prepare for this purpose an area in the Sookpung valley capable of containing 1,000 graves would cost approximately \$12,000 and that some additional expenditure would be required for a path or road to the site. His Excellency hopes to provide for this expenditure in next year's Budget, but in the meantime, it is proposed to set apart and dedicate a portion of the Colonial Cemetery for Christians and in that portion Buddhist or non-Christian burial rites will be prohibited. As, however, the practice of their religious rites was guaranteed to all nations and creeds by the proclamation of the 1st February, 1841, and as Buddhists have at the present time no place except the Colonial Cemetery in which to bury their dead, His Excellency considers that it would be unwise to interfere with their rites in the remote part of the Cemetery, in which they are practised, and which it is not proposed to include in the Christian Cemetery.

In these circumstances, His Excellency will be glad if the Board will suspend action under the bye-law prohibiting the burning of joss-sticks and firing of crackers, in the Colonial Cemetery.

I am, etc.,
A. M. THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Sanitary Board.

Mr. Shelton Hooper intimated—I consider that as burial grounds for Chinese Buddhists are already provided elsewhere, it is only necessary to prepare an area capable of containing 500 graves, and consequently at a greatly reduced estimate to that purpose. I estimate that such a cemetery as I propose will be sufficient for 20 years.

The objection to the burning of joss-sticks was raised by the owners of Christian graves in the same sections as the practice objected to was carried on.

There is not so much objection to these rites if they are carried on in a remote part of the Cemetery.

Mr. Ho Kim Tong—I am sorry in this matter of the provision of separate burial grounds for others than those professing the Christian religion, I have again to join issue with Mr. Shelton Hooper. In his minute, he writes of "Chinese Buddhists." Chinese following the Buddhist faith in the Colony are greatly in the majority as compared with those who belong to the Confucian following. My interpretation of the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 29th June last, is that the proposed cemetery is not intended to be restricted to Chinese burials alone, but makes provision for those Chinese Buddhists who are not of Chinese nationality, e.g., the Japanese, who are not yet provided for elsewhere. Were Mr. Hooper's recommendation to be adopted, the Japanese community, who are growing in number from year to year, will have good ground for complaint under the terms of the proclamation cited in the Colonial Secretary's letter. Until such time as the proposed Buddhist cemetery can be made ready, I concur in the proposal to hold in abeyance the operation of the prohibitive bye-law which (though passed) I am opposed in the principle of its spirit.

Mr. E. A. Hewitt intimated—I agree with the proposal of the Government.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak—The operation of the bye-law should be suspended, pending the provision for a suitable site for the Buddhists of any nationality.

THE KOWLOON HOTEL.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION.

The Fourth of July in Hongkong was celebrated, as usual, with great enthusiasm by the American community and their friends, last Sunday and Monday. At the Kowloon Hotel on Sunday evening special and very successful celebration of the anniversary was observed. The beautiful gardens of the hotel were laid out as an open air dining place and the management were fortunate in being favoured with fine weather, which rendered their *à la carte* arrangements entirely satisfactory. The band of the 10th M.L.R. was in attendance, in charge of Bandmaster T. O. Gabriel, and rendered an excellent programme before and after dinner. The grounds were artistically decorated with flags and flowers and illuminated by lanterns and kites. The many dinner tables set out in the gardens were all fully occupied by guests, all of whom were welcomed to the place personally by the popular proprietor (Mr. O. E. Owen) and his energetic manager (Mr. C. Chaytor), who were generally congratulated on the success which attended their endeavours to fittingly celebrate the American festival. It is needless to say that the famous Champagne Cup of the hotel was highly appreciated by all. One of the novelties of the evening was the distribution of silk handkerchiefs, with mottos and programmes, to all the ladies who were among the guests. The menu was all that the most fastidious could wish for, and was highly praised on all sides.

COMPLAINT AGAINST SCAVENGING CONTRACTOR.

REPORTS FROM SANITARY OFFICIALS.

The following complaint has been received from Dr. F. Clarke, Medical Officer of Health against the Shau-ki-wan scavenging contractor and laid on the table at the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday afternoon:

(1) That on the 22nd day of June, 1909, he did neglect to remove the night soil from the Government public latrines in the villages of Shau-ki-wan and Shau-ki-wan West as required by clause 12 of his contract.

(2) That on the same date he did neglect to empty and thoroughly cleanse out the public bins outside the Tallow Docks as required by clause 6 of his contract.

(3) That he did on the same date neglect to clean the Government public latrines at Shau-ki-wan West with marble water tight receptacles of non-absorbent material for the reception of excreta, as required by section 161 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance, 1905, although such receptacles had been issued to him by the Inspector of the District ten days previously.

A report from a Sanitary Inspector was also attached.

Mr. E. A. Hewitt intimated—A very serious case of default. The contractor should be severely dealt with.

FIRES IN HONGKONG.

A DOUBLE CALL.

6th Inst.

This morning at a quarter past one o'clock the fire-bell on Queen's Road rang, announcing the outbreak of a fire in the village of Samuipo, situated a little to the westwards of Cosmopolitain Dock. Immediately upon the receipt of the alarm, the Fire Brigade, under Chief Inspector H. Baker and Firemaster Lane, were despatched in strong force to the scene of the outbreak in the Government fireboat.

When the contingent arrived at Samuipo, they discovered that the fire was raging in the very centre of the village—a densely populated resort of the fishing and sea-faring community—and so close had the flames taken hold of these central tenements that the Brigade were for a time unable to check the progress of the conflagration.

But what with able direction the part of those in charge and the strenuous endeavours of the firemen, the flames were so well checked that the area of the outbreak was confined to the houses already hopelessly involved.

In extinguishing the flames, the firemen had to undergo not only severe labour but in many cases individual danger through the falling gables, beams and debris from the burning buildings. The houses consumed were mostly of the shop-house type, consisting of shops below and dwellings above—some of two storeys and some of three storeys in height. In all about 38 houses were destroyed. No human lives were lost, but animal life suffered to the extent of several hundreds of pigs as well as numerous broods of poultry.

The firemen behaved with such gallantry in face of the fierce flames and dangerous collapses of buildings that too much praise cannot be bestowed upon them and where all acquitted themselves with such distinction it would be indelicate to mention anyone in particular.

Fortunately there was a plentiful supply of water, provided by the powerful fire-boat from Hongkong and the engine from Vauvau, and the Brigade made the best use possible of the extinguishing means to hand.

Needless to say, the fire attracted thousands of spectators from far and near, over and above those who had performed to stand by and see their homes devastated. The crowd was kept well in order under the direction of Sergeant Angus.

It appears that little or no insurance had been effected on the property destroyed, belonging as it did mainly to the ordinary class of Chinese village dwellings of unpretentious appearance and structure.

The fire continued to burn until this morning and its continuance kept a contingent of firemen standing by until this afternoon.

The damage has not yet been assessed.

FIRE IN WING LOK STREET.

While the Brigade were busily engaged in their efforts to extinguish the Samuipo fire, the Chief Inspector (Mr. Baker) received a telephone message to the effect that another outbreak had occurred in Wing Lok Street, Hongkong. By this time—nearly four o'clock—the Samuipo fire was fairly well under control. So that the Firemaster was able to detach a contingent of his men off to attend to the later call. Those were sent across the Harbour in the fire-boat, and landed at the Harbour Master's Pier close to the seat of the outbreak. On their arrival at Wing Lok Street it was found that the fire was well under control, having been tackled by a party of the Fire Brigade under Sergeant Hodge and Sergeant Wilson. Notwithstanding their efforts, however, the building was practically gutted before the extinction of the flames; but their efforts were successful in preventing the spread of the conflagration to the neighbouring buildings in this densely built portion of the town.

The building—No. 61, Wing Lok Street—was a four-storey structure, occupied as a store or shop below and as dwellings on the upper floors.

Damage is roughly estimated at between \$18,000 and \$20,000, and it is stated that the loss is covered to some extent in the Leuchington Insurance Company.

ROULETTE AT HARBIN.

A CRIPPLED INDUSTRY.

Some days ago we described a few of the highly dastardly changes which have lately taken place in Harbin, where the authorities have been busily engaged in ridding the community of the horde of undesirable who settled down like vampires on the place after the close of the war.

As we have said Harbin is now pretty clear of those harpies and the authorities are enjoying a commendable determination to keep it so, as a certain individual who is now in Shanghai has lately learned, we believe, to his cost.

The personage in question, who was at one time connected with the Alhambra, went up to Harbin a little time ago and set up a gorgeous gambling establishment where roulette-playing went on nightly to the accompaniment of singing, dancing and other allurements—for a while. The Russian police warned him that he would not be allowed to continue his nefarious calling but our enterprising friend, profiting by his Alhambra experience, replied that Harbin was an international settlement, that he was under Spanish protection and that the Russian police might go to Jericho. The matter was referred to Peking, where the gambler's claim to Spanish protection seems to have been confirmed. He is continued to keep his establishment open in defiance of the police and a Spanish Consular official opened an office in town, to which the Police authorities were referred in connection with any complaints they had to make regarding the resort.

But the Russian police, with all their faults, are pretty resolute when they take the suppression of any institution in hand, and finding they could not close the place by force they hit on a plan for making the proprietor realize that it would no longer pay him to keep it open. It was very simple. They merely stationed two hefty Cossacks at the door, with instructions to stop everyone attempting to enter and ascertain his nationality before allowing him to pass. The Cossacks appear to have performed this duty to admiration. Our informant tells us that for the two or three days during which the resort remained open after the adoption of the plan scenes like the following were of constant occurrence. "A would-be patron would approach the door and try to enter but would be promptly halted by the Cossacks with a sharp 'What are you?'" "Then, in reply, the reply, perhaps, would be 'What nationality?' would be the Cossack's next question, and when the answer 'Russian' was given the guardians of the door would give the curt order 'Go away, home about your business and do not let us see you here again or you will be put in gaol.'" And this was never neglected or disputed. Should the answer to the Cossack's first question be 'British,' or 'American,' or 'French,' or 'German,' or the name of any other nationality, the Cossacks insisted on seeing the papers of the applicant for admittance before allowing

him to pass, and in nine cases out of ten this condition was effective in keeping him out of the place altogether. The expedient was completely successful, and in a very brief space of time the promoter of the pretty little enterprise concluded that the game was not worth the candle, that roulette was a foolish industry in Harbin and that it would be best for him to seek a more promising field of enterprise. We understand he has come back to Shanghai.—*Shanghai Times.*

VICEROYAL CHANGES.

Within the past ten days the deaths of two important officials have led to a notable shifting round of China's provincial rulers. In two of these changes Shanghai is directly interested. On Tuesday last an Imperial edict announced the promotion of our former Tientsin Governor, a man whose firmness of purpose coupled with his frank readiness to listen to argument and reason had won for him the community's deserved respect—to be Governor of Kiangsu in place of the deceased Chen Chilai; and at the present moment the cruiser *Huichih* is understood to be on her way to Nanking to carry out the promotion. This building, the architects of which are Messrs. Scott, Christie and Johnson, occupies a prominent position. Standing on the triangular block bounded by Broadway, Seward and Tientsin roads, it considerably improves the locality, as the builders have curtailed the width of the bank, and have utilized the space thus gained for footpaths. This enables a better view of the building to be obtained, and the architectural merit of the building is greater than they would if the building had been erected in narrower streets.

The ground floor is given up to the Banking Hall and the necessary treasury, storerooms and native employees' section. All the woodwork is of polished teak, and the lofty ceilings are double coffered. There is an entire absence of gaudiness, everything being tasteful and "bromatinal." In the working part of the Chinese section a "Consolidate floor" has been laid, but the floor of the Banking Hall is laid with mosaic paving. The windows are made of glass-panes by factory windows, which bear the initials of the Bank in English letters and Chinese characters. These windows, five in number, are very large, and admit enough light even on the duller days to make the use of artificial illumination unnecessary. Three electric fans supplement the excellent flue system of ventilation provided, whilst in the winter months, the hall will be warmed by radiators of the low-pressure, hot-water system. Access to the Banking Hall is gained through a revolving door on the corner of Broadway and Seward Road. This is the main entrance, has a stone porch with Ionic columns. On the first floor a suite of rooms has been handsomely fitted up for the use of the manager. The suite will comprise a drawing-room, two bedrooms, bathroom and dressing-room, together with kitchen and usual quarters for native servants. All the rooms which have tastefully plastered ceilings, are thoroughly equipped with all the latest furnishings including teak mantelpieces. The entrance to the manager's quarters will be through a private door. There are also several store-rooms on this floor.

The second floor is given over entirely to the bachelor chambers. These, too, in keeping with the other portions of the building, have been fitted up in the most up-to-date manner. Each bedroom on the second floor—which will be known as "Bachelor Chambers"—has its own bathroom, fitted with modern enamelled baths, and all conveniences. All the fittings are heavily nickel-plated, the walls and floors being tiled. Either hot or cold water will be available. It is understood that the Bank's employees are to have the first opportunity of leasing these rooms should they desire to do so. Electric light and fans are installed throughout, but on the ground floor the use of both should be reduced to a minimum by the large windows and the system of ventilating flues.

There is a complete service of fire hydrants and hose, whilst the treasury, the book and the store-rooms have been made absolutely fire and burglar-proof by walls of fire bricks and reinforced concrete. In addition, the walls and floors have been lined with steel plates. Externally the building, which has a rusticated base, is of rubbed red bricks, with stone and reinforced concrete dressings and detached columns, running up to the cornice on the second floor level; the columns have caps of Nippon green stone, the cornice, certain of the reinforced concrete, is of a special feature and adds greatly to the appearance of the building. Above the eaves there is a reinforced concrete balustrading, a similar balustrading having been erected around the tower. The tower, in which later on a clock will be fitted, is of brick with tiled roof. A flagpole surmounts the tower. The foundations are of reinforced concrete, and the building is now receiving the finishing touches.

The building has a frontage to Broadway of 150 feet, to Seward Road of 120 feet and to Tientsin Road of 100 feet, and should, make a welcome addition to the large number of handsome buildings in Shanghai.

HONGKONG BANK.

NEW BUILDING IN SHANGHAI.

For some time past it has been known that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank intended to open a branch in Hongkong, says the *N. Y. D. News*. In all probability the branch will not be open for business until after the hot weather, but already the spacious three-storey building, in which it will be housed, is nearing completion. This building, the architects of which are Messrs. Scott, Christie and Johnson, occupies a prominent position. Standing on the triangular block bounded by Broadway, Seward and Tientsin roads, it considerably improves the locality, as the builders have curtailed the width of the bank, and have utilized the space thus gained for footpaths. This enables a better view of the building to be obtained, and the architectural merit of the building is greater than they would if the building had been erected in narrower streets.

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SANITARY BOARD'S POWER QUESTIONED.

LIVELY MINUTES.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday afternoon, correspondence was laid on the table relative to the erection of an iron staircase at No. 98, Queen's Road Central.

Mr. Shelton Hooper intimated—Apparently, more attention is paid to the opinion of the Director of Public Works than to the opinion of the Board when eight voted for it being granted and only the D. P. W. against it. Mr. Shelton Hooper's statement that eight voted for this. One member voted against it and I know of two that refrained from voting at all, one of them after asking "if this was not the case in which the M. O. H. had reported in an adverse manner."

THE SHANGHAI DOCK & ENGINEERING CO., LTD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the third annual general meeting to be held at the head office, Shanghai, on Thursday, the 8th inst., is as follows:

To the shareholders of the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd.

Consolidated and only the D. P. W. against it. Mr. Shelton Hooper's statement that eight voted for this. One member voted against it and I know of two that refrained from voting at all, one of them after asking "if this was not the case in which the M. O. H. had reported in an adverse manner."

A final dividend of Tls. 2.50 per share, Tls. 138,000.00 Amount to be carried to new account Tls. 6,201.46

Tls. 144,201.46

Mr. Jas. Johnston retired from the Board on leaving for Europe, and Mr. H. J. Craig was appointed to fill the vacancy. His election required your confirmation.

In accordance with § 8 of the memorandum and articles of association, two of the directors, Messrs. David Landale and H. J. Macray retired, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. E. Blagden and F. N. Matthews, who retire,

but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls.
To 2½% interim dividend on 55,200 shares	138,000.00
To 1909, April 30th.	
To Directors' auditors' and H. J. Macray agency fees	8,400.00
Balance	144,201.46
Tls. 290,661.46	

Cr.	Tls.
By Balance carried forward	33,742.98
By 1909, April 30th.	
By Transfer fees collected during the year	183.40
Interest received and estimated accrued on investments, deposits, and current account with Bank less interest on cash deposits with Company	14,383.34
Transfer from General Working Account	142,351.74
Tls. 290,661.46	

BALANCE SHEET.

Liabilities.

30th April, 1909.	Tls.
Capital Account.	
Registered Capital—55,200 shares @ Tls. 100	5,520,000.00
Subscribed Capital—55,200 shares @ Tls. 100 fully paid up	5,516,300.00
38 shares @ Tls. 100 due members of the late S. O. Farham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., to be issued on application	3,800.00
Tls. 5,516,300.00	

Assets.	Tls.
55,200 shares Reserve Fund.	
Taken over from the late S. O. Farham, Boyd & Co., Ltd.	1,000,000.00
Unpaid Dividends.	
Taken over from the late S. O. Farham, Boyd & Co., Ltd.	5,124.00
The Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd.	33,845.00
Sundry Creditors.	38,000.00
Local bills, etc.	31,654.66
Employer's deposit accounts	2,524.15
Directors', auditors', and Hongkong agencies fees	8,400.00
Profit and Loss Account.	42,588.81
Balance at credit of this account	144,201.46
Tls. 6,745,819.27	

Assets.	Tls.
1909, April 30th.	
Property Account.	
Land—	
"Old" Dock, as per Title Deeds	20 2 8 9
"Cosmopolitain" Dock, as per Title Deeds	162 2 4 1
"International" Dock, as per Title Deeds	127 6 7 3
"Tunkadoo" Dock, as per Title Deeds	35 6 9 5
"New" Dock, as per Title Deeds	48 6 4 3
Postings, as per Title Deeds	54 3 1 8
Total	448 8 5 9

Value Tls.	1,729,419.03
Docks, Buildings, Wharves and Walls:	
"Old" Dock	1,339,906.57
"Cosmopolitain" Dock	
"International" Dock	
"Tunkadoo" Dock	
"New" Dock	
Postings, as per Title Deeds	23,355.72
Buildings:	
At all establishments	454,019.39
Machinery and Plant:	
At all establishments	1,129,798.67
Tools, Patterns, and Gear:	
At all establishments	104,120.32
Steamers, launches, and vessels	154,000.00
Pontons, steam dredgers, pile-drivers, etc.	75,772.91
Furniture:	
Office and drawing office furniture, drawing materials and appliances, plans, etc.	19,615.00
Stock Account:	
Value of materials on hand	1,095,692.33
Sundry Debtors:	
Accounts in course of collection, including value of completed portion of unfinished work (Tls. 2,524.44) and Tls. 12,003.45 secured by promissory notes, dated 7th September, 1909	285,041.82
Investments and Deposits:	
6 North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.	shares
22 Hall and Holt Ltd.	
18 Yangtze Insurance Association, Ltd.	
1 Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	
10 Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.	
138 Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co., Ltd.	
5 Shanghai Ice & Cold Storage Co., Ltd.	
100 Kienchen T'ien Ltd.	
Tow Boat Co., Ltd.	
Tls. 17,500.41	

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Tls. 17,500.41	

"Cosmopolitan" Dock, as per Title Deeds	162 2 4 1
"International" Dock, as per Title Deeds	127 6 7 3
"Tunkadoo" Dock	

Macao's Delimitation.

LETTER FROM SINGAPORE CHINESE.
[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, and July.

On the 1st instant, the Canton Self-Government Society was in receipt of a letter from Chinese residing in the Straits Settlements, in which the Self-Government Society has been asked to take the drastic steps with a view to prohibiting the people from visiting the pleasure resorts and gambling saloons in the Portuguese Colony of Macao, and to urge the authorities to enforce regulations forbidding the sale of Macao lottery tickets in Chinese territories. [The lottery issue of the Santa Casa de Misericordia, more generally known as the Macao lottery, has been discontinued, and the monopoly abolished, at any rate temporarily.—Ed., N.K.T.] It is urged that more members should be sent to the interior to deliver lectures and make speeches to persuade the local gentry to withdraw their youths against visiting noted establishments in the Portuguese settlement. It is suggested in the letter that a body of detectives should be formed, for the purpose of keeping a strict watch for anyone found visiting the proscribed places. Such persons should be ostracized by his family and his clan, and should further not be allowed the privileges enjoyed by his compatriots. The Self-Government Society also received a letter which accompanied the above letter, towards the funds for the maintenance of the Society.

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING PLACE.

EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF DELIBERATIONS.

It would appear that our reference to the first meeting of the Portuguese and Chinese special Commissioners, who met in Hongkong last week for the first time, as having been one that had been initiated under the happiest auspices, auguring well for the entire cordiality of the two high officials, who had been delegated to their respective Governments to settle this long pending question, was unconsciously invested with a son of prophetic ring that has thus early proved the truth of the assertion. Long had it been speculated in the minds of those who interest themselves in the forthcoming deliberations of the Commission where would be the meeting place of the Conference. As "Glenelly" Buildings, just then vacated by the German Consulate, were leased for residential quarters for the Chinese Commissioner, the report was promptly brought about that the Conference would hold its sittings within those buildings. That little credence could have been attached to the report was the conclusion arrived at by the thinking public, who could not suppose that the latter could be definitely arranged without reference to, and agreement with, the Portuguese Commissioner in the first instance.

Another suggestion was that the Council Chambers of the Colonial Government might be utilized. Yet a third was the leasing of a room within the City Hall building. To those who are acquainted with the innumerable noise obtaining in the vicinity, it was evident that neither St. Andrew's nor St. George's Hall offered the attractions for the purpose of the Conference.

From sources which can claim unimpeachable faith, we have to-day derived information to the effect that an agreement has been reached between General Sir Joseph Macdonald and H.E. Ko Yu-him whereby the Commission will hold its sittings, in private, in the annex of "Duart", the private residence of Senator J. J. Leiria, the well-known Consul for Portugal in Hongkong. If the report is true—and we have no reason to doubt its veracity—Mr. Leiria will enjoy the distinction of having the honour of housing on his hospitable doors to two officials of the high rank of General Macdonald and Commissioner Ko.

The distinction is certainly an enviable one, inasmuch as the Commission's deliberations will be of historical and memorable import. Those who are in a position to speak, when questioned by a member of our staff, have no official confirmation or denial for publication as to the accuracy of our report; but we feel sufficient confidence in giving it publicity since within the next few days, at latest, the Conference is expected to commence its labours.

In the meantime, reported in the *Hong Kong Telegraph* on Friday last, H.E. Ko is away in Canton to tender his congratulations to Viceroy Chang Jen-chun on his recent promotion. Until His Excellency's return the first sitting is pending. The Commissioner is expected back in a day or two. The French language will be the medium of the exchange of views and discussion, and the deliberations will, as above stated, be conducted in private.

VICEROY CHANG'S CONCERN.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 3rd July.

It is the intention of H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen-chun not to leave Canton until the negotiations between the Chinese and the Portuguese Delimitation Commissioners have been completed. His Excellency accordingly yesterday wired to Peking for authority to remain here and at the same time asked the Imperial Government to instruct the new Canton Viceroy, H.E. Yuan Shih Kuan, to proceed south at an early date in order to have an opportunity of conferring with and assisting H.E. Ko Yu-him in his difficult mission.

GENERAL MACHADO.

Some of the older members of the Portuguese community in Hongkong and a few of their more intimate friends called on a body of General Machado, at "Kingsclere" on Friday last. His Excellency, who had been previously apprised of the visit, received his compatriots officially and was attended by the Assistant Commissioner, Senator D. Cissati. The visitors, who did not possess any official status, called on him in their personal capacity. General Machado welcomed them most cordially and spent fully half-an-hour in conversation with his nationals who had called to do honour to their distinguished compatriot. The topics of conversation dealt with principally had reference to such all-important subjects as education, the successful colonisation of Hongkong, the immigration and development of the Portuguese colony on the island, Portuguese influence in Africa with special reference to the recent Delagoa Bay Convention and the future prospects of the Portuguese African possessions whose destinies the General exercised such an important influence in deciding. His Excellency was particularly struck by the site of the Portuguese community in Hongkong, with some of whose oldest members he felt gratified at being personally acquainted, that evening. After cordially thanking his visitors, the small party begged leave to retire.

In the course of the forenoon to-day General Machado, attended by Senator Cissati and Capt. Norton called on one of the members of the party at his office to return the visit—an act of courtesy which was very highly appreciated on behalf of the gentleman called upon as well as of his friends. It should be added that, on Friday, Mr. J. L. de Salazar Alves, who holds a high position and much respect

by his friends, was the vehicle for the interpretation of the greetings exchanged between the visitors and General Machado at "Kingsclere".

DINNER AT THE PORTUGUESE CONSUL'S.

H.E. The General and staff were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leiria at dinner at the Consular residence on Saturday last. Capt. Almeida of the *Pasco*, as well as Mr. Moraes, the Portuguese Consul at Canton, were also invited to dinner. The party later attended a public entertainment by an amateur troupe of the Portuguese warships in port for the benefit of the sufferers by the recent earthquake in Portugal.

PORTUGAL'S RIGHTS OVER MACAO.

A Portuguese writes as follows in the *N. C. D. News*, under date Shanghai, 29th ult.:—

Before the meeting of the Commissioners, which is now expected to take place in a few days, General Macdonald and Senator Cissati, who are already arriving, may be allowed to address you another letter.

A literary and news review is published every ten days in the capital city of the district of Hong-San under the name of *Hong-San-San-pou*. Particular attention is paid in this review to the question of the delimitation of the Macao boundaries. In its issue of May 10 appears the memorial which Chang Chih-tung, who was then Viceroy of Canton, presented to the Throne after the signature of the Protocol of Lisbon of March 26, 1889.

The *Vida Nova* of Macao publishes a translation in Portuguese of this important Chinese official document, from which I extract the following passages, as they appear of great interest at this juncture as reflecting the train of the Cantonese mind at the time the Protocol was negotiated and as affording an explanation of their present attitude towards Portugal. Chang Chih-tung begins by quoting the memorial of the contents of which he was apprised, presented to the Throne by the Taungli Yamen (giving the reasons for the negotiations which led to the signature of the Protocol).

"The Taungli Yamen writes:—

"The opium proceeds from India and is shipped to China and deposited in Hongkong and Macao, and from these two places it is sent to other ports for sale. For its fiscalization, in order to prevent smuggling, the co-operation of England and Portugal is required.

"With the permission of M. M. the Emperor, Taotai Chao Iao-him in the company of Sir Robert Hart was sent in February, 1886, to Hongkong to enter into arrangements with the British authorities.

"It was then found that, although the co-operation of Hongkong was important, that of Macao was necessary, for the effective suppression of smuggling.

"In view of this fact, it was decided to issue secret orders to Sir Robert Hart to send to Portugal the Commissioner of Customs, Duncan Campbell, who was in London as agent for the Inspectorate General, to treat of the question."

"At last Sir Robert Hart reports officially the receipt of a telegram from the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs fixing these four points:—

"Portugal to send to China a minister to negotiate a treaty of commerce.

"Perpetual occupation and government of Macao by Portugal.

"The territory of Macao cannot be ceded to another nation.

"Macao will co-operate in the same manner as it is done in Hongkong."

"Permission to sign the Protocol containing these points was given to Mr. Duncan Campbell, and arrangements were made through the British Minister at Peking for Portugal to send a Minister Plenipotentiary to China to negotiate the treaty, and orders were conveyed to the Portuguese Authorities at Macao to give effect to the stipulated co-operation.

"Macao has been in occupation of Portugal since the time of Emperor K'ia Tsing, of the Ming dynasty, and should we insist on refusing to recognize this occupation as perpetual, our refusal would be a dead letter. The obstacles to the collection of the customs duties and like tax would also be the greater without any chances of recovering Macao.

"With the realization of the treaty the right to the collection of these imports would be recovered and fiscal matters would be put in order.

"The duties, which would otherwise be lost to us through smuggling, could be collected in the custom house which is to be established.

"The fugitive criminals who formerly found shelter in Macao shall be liable to capture.

"Above all, as Portugal is daily becoming poorer, rich and powerful nations like France, the United States, Russia and Germany, who regard Macao with covetous eyes, with a view to depositing troops there, may think of acquiring that territory by paying a large sum for this reason there must be included in the treaty the explicit condition that that territory cannot be ceded to any other Power."

Chang Chih-tung was evidently not satisfied with the remarks made by him. The following is from his pen:—

"One can see that the occupation of Macao by the Portuguese dates from a long time, and the Taungli Yamen recognizing that so extended a period has elapsed without having recovered the place and having seen that territory handed over to other nations, covet that territory made up its mind to come to terms with Portugal. In appearance it was for the collection of imports and repression of criminals, that the assistance of Portugal was sought, secretly, it was to devise means to prevent the absorption and usurpation of that territory. The consequence is we succeeded indirectly in restraining Macao with benefit to the nation."

"When I saw this published in Hongkong papers I had my misgivings; but from a dispatch addressed to me by the Taungli Yamen, which came to hand soon after, I found that the plan was realized.

"The idea of restraining Macao is a good one, but there are many dangers, which must not be lost sight of, and I have in consequence been spending the last few days thinking anxiously on the pros and cons of the whole question.

"This is an important matter, and I must, therefore, put before my Sovereign what I think about it."

Here, Chang Chih-tung points out seven dangers, which, he says, lie, mostly, in the recognition of Macao as a Portuguese possession, on account of its territorial importance, and he proceeds to suggest five expedients to counteract such dangers.

"Although the Protocol," remarks the distinguished Viceroy, "has already been signed by Duncan Campbell, the treaty has to be disavowed and agreed to between the Portuguese and Macao, who has come to China, and the Taungli Yamen."

"Regarding the perpetual occupation of Macao we must see that in consequence of the co-operation of the Portuguese in the collection of imports, the ground rent is waived, but there is no cession of the territory in their occupation, which is not to belong to Portugal.

"Besides, it is stated in the Protocol that Portugal cannot surrender Macao to another nation; therefore Macao is granted by China to the Portuguese as a place of residence, but the territory cannot be lost to the Chinese."

"We must say explicitly that Macao was perpetually ceded to the Portuguese to live there with the exemption of ground-rent; but it cannot be considered as a Portuguese possession."

"The fact that the place cannot be given up to another nation is a proof that Macao continues to be Chinese territory."

"As the place cannot be ceded by Portugal to another power, our cession consists only in waiving our rights remain unimpaired.

"This mode of procedure does not conflict with the Protocol. Portugal's mouth shall be closed and other nations' cupidly shall be curbed."

On the extent of the territory in our occupation, the former Viceroy of the two Kwang draws a line at the city wall, and characterizes as usurpation any territorial extensions beyond that limit. Further, he maintains that there are no limits to be determined as to territorial waters, as "Macao is Chinese territory."

He does not appear to believe much in the efficacy of our co-operation for the protection of the imperial revenue in South China—the only reason which induced China to recognize the perpetual occupation of Macao and its dependencies as an other Portuguese possession."

He adds that the Taungli Yamen was not acquainted with all the circumstances concerning Macao, and this is the reason why he makes known his views in order to obviate difficulties.

He insists on the forthcoming Treaty being negotiated between the Taungli Yamen and the Portuguese Minister in conformity with the indications as pointed out by him.

Nevertheless, the Treaty was negotiated, signed and ratified, integrally, on the lines as set forth in the Protocol.

But, the spirit which dictated the distinguished Viceroy's memorial to the Throne is still hovering over the whole question, now in its last phase.

However, I hope that better counsels will prevail in the end and an era of good-will between the two nations, concerned, will be re-established in South China for their mutual benefit.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

SEVENTH CONGRESS.

We have been favoured with the following correspondence for publication:—

Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London, E.C., 30th April, 1909.

Dear Sir,—I beg to remind you that the Seventh Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire opens at Sydney, N.S.W., on 14th September next and is to be followed by a short tour of two or three weeks' duration, during which most of the principal centres of the Commonwealth will be visited. As you are aware, the Governor-General of Australia, the Right Hon. the Earl of Dudley, G. C. M. G., G. C. has accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Congress, and the Federal Government will officially receive the delegates.

The letters already received from several of the most important Chambers in New Zealand have now been supplemented by an invitation from Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister of the Dominion, and a semi-official visit to New Zealand will probably follow the Australian Tour.

You will understand that it is important that the delegates from this side should be both numerous and influential. Up to the present time only a small proportion of the total number of Chambers have definitely notified me on the subject of delegates, and I would therefore urge upon all who have not done so the desirability of calling, if necessary, special meetings upon all who have not done so the desirability of calling, if necessary, special meetings and communicating with me upon this head without further delay, and, if necessary, by cable. Owing to the distance involved, the final Programme of Resolutions and List of Delegates must, of course, be circulated relatively earlier than has been the case heretofore—not later, indeed, than the middle of June.

It has been found impracticable to arrange a main party to proceed to Australia, but those delegates who do not wish to travel alone should write upon all who have not done so the desirability of calling, if necessary, special meetings and communicating with me upon this head without further delay, and, if necessary, by cable. Owing to the distance involved, the final Programme of Resolutions and List of Delegates must, of course, be circulated relatively earlier than has been the case heretofore—not later, indeed, than the middle of June.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber yesterday afternoon. Present:—His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Sir Henry Baskley (Attorney-General), Hon. Mr. G. McI. Baskley (Colonial Treasurer), Hon. Mr. E. N. B. Jones (Director of Public Works), Hon. Mr. F. J. Baskley (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M.G., Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart, and Mr. C. Clement (Clerk of Council).

ABSENT.

Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewitt.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 9).

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minute No. 30. It was agreed that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

RAILWAYS.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to regulate the construction and management of railways. He said:—Hon. members are aware that a railway from which great things are hoped for the benefit of the Colony will be completed between Kowloon and the border of the Colony to connect with the railway thence to Canton. The object of this Ordinance is to authorize the construction of that railway and to provide for its administration and management. That, shortly, indicates the scope of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Agreed.

The Bill went into Committee.

Mr. Osborne suggested that there should be a clause in the Bill compelling the railway authorities to take precautions against setting fire to crops.

It was agreed to hear the clause at the next meeting of Council.

The Council resumed, leaving the Bill in Committee.

STONECUTTERS' ISLAND.

In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Stonecutters Island Ordinance, 1889, the Attorney-General said:—The purpose of the Bill is to prescribe a limited distance from the shore of Stonecutters Island within which vessels may ordinarily anchor or make fast.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Agreed.

The Bill went into committee.

Mr. Murray Stewart going there was no objection to his being present.

The Bill passed through Committee and was read a third time and passed.

COMPANIES—LOCAL REGISTERS.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Companies (Local Registers) Ordinance, 1907.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The motion was carried and the Bill went through Committee.

It was proposed that the fee for authorisation should be \$100 instead of \$10.

On a vote being taken only Messrs. Gresson and Murray Stewart voted in favour of the smaller amount and accordingly the fee was fixed at \$100 on the motion of Mr. Osborne.

INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE.

On the motion of the Attorney-General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Interpretation Amendment Ordinance, 1908, was read a second time.

It was then considered in Committee, read a third time and passed.

STAMP ORDINANCE.

The Attorney-General moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1901, as amended by the Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance 1902.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

PATENTS.

The Committee stage of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Patents Ordinance, 1903, was not proceeded with.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned till Thursday, the 15th inst.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the meeting of Council, the Colonial Secretary presiding. It was agreed to recommend that the following vote be adopted by the Council:—

CHARITABLE SERVICES.

A sum of five hundred dollars in aid of the vote Charitable Services, other charitable allowances.

This was all the business.

THE YARN QUESTION.

CERTAIN POINTS TO BE RE-ARGUED.

The attention of the Chief Justice (Sir Francis Pigott) was engaged for a while in the Supreme Court, yesterday morning, in further consideration of the application for leave to appeal from his own decision in the case brought by Messrs. S. J. David and Co. against their late comrade (Mr. Chan Yui Chiu) to recover the sum of \$548,816.67 and interest at the rate of 8 per centum per annum from the date the writ was issued and until payment or judgment.

This large claim was alleged to have arisen in connection with dealings in cotton yarn, for which the plaintiffs alleged, the comrade was liable. The defendant entered a counter-claim to recover the sum of \$55,000, alleged to have been deposited with them. This was denied.

Mr. Duncan McNeill, a Shanghai barrister, with whom was Mr. C. J. Alabaster, instructed by Messrs. A. G. Jackson and H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared on behalf of the appellants. Sir Henry Baskley, K.C., assisted by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harrison (of Messrs. Ewins and Harrison) represented the respondent.

The Chief Justice stated that he was in doubt as to one point—and that was in connection with a certain clause in the agreement, which he required to be re-argued.

A date will be fixed for counsel to settle the point.

JAPAN-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION.

At the meeting, on the 28th ultimo, of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the following letters were laid on the table:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
28th June, 1909.

Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to refer the enclosed copy of a letter from the Commissioner General of the Japan-British Exhibition for the consideration of your Committee and to inquire whether in the opinion of your Committee this Colony should participate in the exhibition.—I am, &c.,
(Sgd.), A. M. THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary,
The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

(Enclosure).

28th May, 1909.

Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that an arrangement has been concluded between His Excellency Mr. Kato, Ambassador of Japan at the Court of St. James, on behalf of the Emperor and Government of that Empire and the authorities of the "White City" for holding an Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush exclusively confined to the arts, manufactures and products of the Japanese and British Empires, commencing on May 3rd, 1910, and remaining open for about six months.

This will be the first occasion upon which Japan has brought before the people of the United Kingdom, and the Western World generally, the vast resources of that Empire, and the Government of His Imperial Majesty have made arrangements, financial and administrative, for making their display thoroughly large and representative.

There are many grave reasons, political and commercial, closely affecting the future happiness and prosperity of this nation why the participation of the Colonies and Dependencies of this Empire should be upon a scale of equal magnitude and comprehensiveness.

It is absolutely necessary that the people of Japan should

"Police" went up. The gambler's escape was cut out of this supposed policeman's way, their hurry to escape the hawkers and the collision, and a knife which the former held in his hand cut the collar of the arm. Evidence was heard, and the case adjourned.

SALT JUNK PIRATED.

MASTER AND CREW LEFT ON AN ISLAND NEAR DEEP BAY.

The story of a rather daring piracy was related by witnesses to Mr. J. R. Wood (second police magistrate) in the Police Court, last Wednesday, when two junksmen, Chau Yee and Chau Kam Tai, were charged with robbing a junk near Deep Bay some time last month. The defendants pleaded not guilty and were committed to the police station to await the case for the following day.

According to the evidence a cargo-boat (No. 21, 172) with crew of five persons on board, left Vau-mai Bay early in the morning of the 21st ultimo, bound for Sau Chau, an island near Deep Bay.

The junk, it might be stated, was brought here to have its licence renewed, and after loading a cargo of salt for Deep Bay.

"We had a fine passage for two days," said the junk master, "but on the third day we were beset by a number of pirates, who were armed with revolvers and fighting-irons, boarded our junk from a sampan which they had brought alongside and on the arm with an iron bar and ordered me to squat down on the deck while they went through my pockets, removing therefrom \$10 in twenty-cent pieces.

"Meanwhile the other pirates got the junk to row to the nearest island where we put ashore and the pirates sailed away with the junk and all our property."

The master and his folk succeeded in reaching a police station and reported the matter, which resulted in the capture of the suspects.

Further evidence was taken and the case adjourned.

AMONG SAVAGES.

BRITISH NATURALIST IN WILD REGIONS. SINGULAR EXPERIENCES.

Mr. Pratt, a British naturalist, has just returned to Java, from Dutch New Guinea. He is a seasoned explorer who has travelled for years in China, Tibet, South America and Asia Minor. He then gave New Guinea a turn and spent four years on the coast in the Dutch and British sections of the island. After two years ago, standing with his two sons for the island, and landed there at Doreh, in Geelvink Bay, where missionaries have been stationed for over 50 years. His further adventures he thus detailed to a representative of the *Locomotion*, a newspaper at Samarang.

Behind Doreh, stretch the Arak mountains in which are two lakes lying at a height of 8,000 feet above sea level. The mountaineers, called Papuan, are rank savages who think nothing of taking human life. Mr. Pratt and his sons took up their quarters at the lakes, they being, as it were, the furthest point within the political influence of the Resident at Doreh. The explorer has a very low opinion of the natives, whom he characterises as utterly untrustworthy, and as being, in fact, a low and unkindly, hospitable, keeping faith, and thankful. Kindness is thrown away upon them, and travellers must always be on the watch for treachery. The Arak mountaineers are well built and intelligent, and till the ground, but their ways and habits are loathsome. Among them fear is the only restraining force. "Dread soon possessed them at the sight of Mr. Pratt's rifle."

Questioned as to how he and his sons managed among savages armed by no law, and among whom treachery and faithlessness reigned supreme, Mr. Pratt said that it was largely due to their fear of Europeans. Tact and keeping one's temper did much towards managing these wild people, who fancied that the traveller wielded supernatural power. Another element regarded the Dutch authorities at the coast. Had it not been for this, massacre of the explorers and the plunder of their property would have been an easy matter. A fierce watch dog, which Mr. Pratt carried with him, kept off the natives at night from his tent. The people live quite isolated, and carry on scarcely any trade. They live on plantains and on potatoes which had been introduced by the first missionaries in 1855.

At the mountaineers grew accustomed to the new comers, Mr. Pratt extended his explorations. The climate at the great elevation of the lakes was glorious. At heights of 10,000 feet, it is bitterly cold, but the savages stand without a word of a single garment. They warm themselves with fire. The people of the lake live in perpetual warfare, not only of village against village, but also of house against house. The warfare consists not in open fighting, but in stealthy murder—with blood-vengeance as the customary law. Head hunting is one custom of the land. The result is that the life of the Papuan is passed in continual fear of enemies and murderers.

Mr. Pratt says that, in civilized society, it is hard to think of an existence in which no one is sure of his life, where every rule may be easily broken, where every man is a potential enemy, where he must be on his guard at all times, where he must be on his guard at all times, where he must be on his guard at all times.

Mr. Pratt remained a long time at the lake where he made large collections of birds, insects and plants. He and his sons never went out alone in the jungle but always in parties of two, one with the day being left behind at the tent which formed their dwelling. When away, they kept a look-out and never entered a house if they could help it. Their tent was pitched far away from dwellings. They lived on tinned provisions, plantains, and potatoes. When it is borne in mind that Mr. Pratt is 55 years of age, this life shows that he has a tough constitution. Neither he nor his sons ever fell ill. After spending a year at the lakes, they went to Humboldt Bay, and made their way to the mountainous region beyond, where the natives are Europeans. These people live miserably on wild plantains, insects, and game, with birds and wild pigs for food. From there Mr. Pratt went to Java. His sons remained behind at a military post at Schouten Island where they will stay for six months.

Mr. Pratt and his sons intend to go back to England. There he will rest for a while, after which he will return to New Guinea for natural history work. In his wanderings Mr. Pratt sighted the standing problem New Guinea—the mysterious Sany Mountains. The travellers' tales about them have been despised by certain scientists who hold that the reflection of light from white rocks on the mountain tops had been taken for snow. Mr. Pratt says that he has seen enough of snowy mountains in various countries, and is firmly convinced that the great mountain range of Dutch New Guinea is indeed snow-capped.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY SCHEME.

H.E. CHANG ANXIOUS FOR FURTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 7th July.

Besides the appropriation of a sum of \$200,000 from the Canton Government Treasury as a donation towards the funds for the establishment of the Hongkong University, H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen Chun is using his personal efforts to raise further subscriptions from the general public towards the Endowment Fund of the proposed institution prior to his departure from Canton. H.E. Chang has given instructions to arrange a dinner party to-morrow, the 8th instant, on board a number of flower boats, where the local gentry and the leading members of the native community here are invited to attend, with a view to inducing the guests to donate further aid towards the realisation of the project.

FURTHER CHINESE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Already acknowledged	\$174,700
Yuen Hoi-yue	2,000
China Merchants' S. N. Co.	1,500
H. E. Tang Shao-yi	1,000
Chu Pak-kin	1,000
Tse Mong-chi	1,000
Yuen Lai-Chuen	500
Li Yau-an	200
Moh Yuh-chai	200
Wong Hong-chow	200
Tan Lap-ting	200
Total	\$236,500

THE COST OF LIVING.

No resident in China whose experience extends over the last seven or eight years can be altogether ignorant of the deep and far-reaching nature of the economic change which, gradually spreading over the empire during that period, is still pursuing its disturbing course. When a first-hand acquaintance with business conditions has not brought its evidence of this fact, the steady rise of the household bills may serve to tell the tale. To many residents the increased cost of living in the Far East has meant the curtailment of many of the luxuries once commonly associated with life here; and although consolation may be derived from the conviction that an advance in the direction of plain living is not without its beneficial effect on the health, even if it fail to lead to that state of high thinking esteemed so desirable by our fathers, yet there are many who must always be in a community like this many who feel acutely the changes to which our attention is daily called. If, however, among the foreign community some financial stress consequent upon this economic change be felt, it is worth while to consider something of what its effect must be upon the small trader, the ordinary householders, the farmer and the artisan among the Chinese. For a change which brings to the foreigner in China anything like a temporary embarrassment, when falling with equal force upon the Chinese must effect something akin to disaster. For a time such reserves as are available may be called upon to avert catastrophe, but in the end the only thing to be done is to revise the manner of life and to resort, perforce, to a lower and cheaper standard of comfort.

It seems that such a change is in progress among whole masses of the Chinese people around us. By common consent the cost of living has risen enormously until the lower classes of Chinese are enduring considerable hardship on this account. Not only around the port of Shanghai but over the whole of this province the price of necessities would appear to have doubled itself at least in the last few years. In some instances, notably in the case of pork, the cost has been trebled. As is inevitable, too, it is the poorer classes, those least able to bear the change, who are the most hardly hit, not only in virtue of their inferior financial capacity, but by the scandalous depreciation and debasement of the copper currency and of subsidiary silver in circulation. It is reckoned that people who live, as the working Chinese do, from hand to mouth, and receive wages on a copper basis, are further penalized, over and above the natural increase in cost of material to the extent of twenty-five per cent. to provide the necessities of life which are derived by that class from the debased condition of the currency. To take, for example, the case of the rice cook; although the value of the cent is much less than it was a few years ago, the price of the rice cook is not higher. But the cost of living for this class has doubled; and it must be remembered that rice cookies are not alone in misfortune but that perhaps a third of the population in this empire, is similarly affected. Such an extremity can only be met by eating less or by eating commoner food; and an intelligent Chinese was heard to suggest not long ago that one of the chief causes for the abnormally high price of pork was the fact that, in the households where pigs were formerly kept, food could not now be spared to feed them. And other causes have been heard to lament that among what might be termed the lower middle classes of the Chinese hospitality was on the wane. Where formerly even the casual visitor to such a household could be assured of an invitation to a meal the invitations are now omitted or grudgingly given. In short it cannot be disputed that a financial situation has arisen that calls for the strictest retrenchment.

Nothing compensates for a general increase in the cost of living except a decided increase in the prosperity of the country, and there is not only no evidence of such added prosperity at the present time but much proof to the contrary. It is high time that the responsible officers of this people awake to a sense of their responsibility in regard to the economic situation. At the present time their attitude and example serve only further to confuse a situation which their unfortunate lack of foresight has done much to bring about. For it is not likely that there can be anything in the nature of a steady revival of trade in China apart from a considerable reform in the administration of government leading to a development of the rich resources of the country. In addition to such development, China's only financial hope, much could be done in relief of the depressing condition of millions of the people by the steady suppression of the opium habit, the prohibition of gambling—that fruitful source of trouble and waste—by regulation of the exorbitant rates of interest on borrowed money which bring to many thousands of families ruin year after year, and also by effective reform of the currency. It is very certain that no return to the cheap food and cheap labour of earlier days can be hoped for. The tendency of prices is ever up, not down. In these circumstances enlightened development alone, on consistent lines, can provide relief from the burden of the present economic situation.—N. C. D. News.

FIFTEEN dollars was the fine imposed by Mr. F. A. Huxford (first police magistrate) in the Police Court this morning on a slacker for demanding payment twice.

SMUGGLING CHINESE INTO AMERICA.

HONGKONG AGENTS' METHODS.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

An interesting side-light was thrown upon the methods pursued by agents in Hongkong of smuggling Chinese into the United States in the course of the hearing of a case, which came before the Appeal Court last Monday morning.

The appellants in the case were the Po On firm, shoemakers, of 210, Queen's Road West, and the respondent was Chan Kwan Shan, a merchant of 24, Queen's Road Central.

In the original action the Chan Kwan Shan was plaintiff, and the Po On firm, together with Ng Ching Chuen, a partner, were defendants.

The plaintiff claimed the recovery of a sum of \$200, which had been deposited at the request of the defendant with one Chan Yik Po; and which deposit defendants guaranteed to be given up to the plaintiff by a written guarantee dated 23rd April, 1908. The plaintiff stated that the deposit was not returned; by Chan Yik Po to him on demand, and he claimed its return and brought the action because he thought the firm were intending to close up their business.

In this action Mr. E. Potter (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almeida e Castro) appeared for the appellants, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., with whom was Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon, was for the respondents.

As will be remembered in the original action judgment was given against the Po On firm, and the appeal now made was made on the ground that the firm as a firm was not responsible for a guarantee given by a partner. Counsel were engaged for several hours in arguing this point, and in the course of the hearing the fact was brought out that this sum of \$200 paid down on deposit was deposited with Chan Yik Po on the understanding that a certain Chinese had to be safely smuggled into the United States in defiance of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The failure of this operation, of course, led to the request of the return of the money.

The case was then adjourned.

THE SUNNING RAILWAY.

COLLECTION OF FARES.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 6th July.

The amount of the daily collection in fares from railway passengers by the Sunning Railway during the 4th moon was as follows:—1st day \$705.71; 2nd day \$705.71; 3rd day \$705.71; 4th day \$705.71; 5th day \$705.71; 6th day \$705.71; 7th day \$705.71; 8th day \$705.71; 9th day \$705.71; 10th day \$705.71; 11th day \$705.71; 12th day \$705.71; 13th day \$705.71; 14th day \$705.71; 15th day \$705.71; 16th day \$705.71; 17th day \$705.71; 18th day \$705.71; 19th day \$705.71; 20th day \$705.71; 21st day \$705.71; 22nd day \$705.71; 23rd day \$705.71; 24th day \$705.71; 25th day \$705.71; 26th day \$705.71; 27th day \$705.71; 28th day \$705.71; 29th day \$705.71; 30th day \$705.71.

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING CO., LD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the "Shell" Transport and Trading Co., Ltd., for the year ended 31st December, 1908, is as follows:—

The chairman and directors have the pleasure of presenting herewith the accounts for the year 1908.

Including the balance brought forward from 1907, and £3,812 16s. 7d., being the unexpended balance of the sum of £70,000 appropriated for special purposes out of the profits of the year 1906, there is a credit to the profit and loss account of £710,551 7s. 1d.

Deducting management, legal and other expenses (£2,517 5s. 6d.), there remains £707,034 15s. 4d., from which the directors recommend that the following preference dividends (absorbing £10,000) and interim dividends (absorbing £130,000) have already been paid.

The representation of the Company on the Boards in the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Limited, and the Bataafische Petroleum Maatschappij remains unaltered.

Depreciation on a sufficient scale having been provided by the Bataafische Petroleum Maatschappij and the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Limited, no provision does not deem it necessary to appropriate out of the year's profits any sum to Reserve, which remains at £70,000 on reserve account, with £100,000 at the credit of reserve fund.

After payment of the dividends already distributed there remains a balance of £112,024 15s. 4d., from which your directors recommend that a further and final dividend for the year 1908 of 10 per cent. be paid on the 5th proximo (making 20 per cent. for the year), leaving the sum of £102,004 15s. 4d. to be carried forward to the current year.

Reports received from the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Limited, and the Bataafische Petroleum Maatschappij justify the payment on account of this year of an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (i.e., at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum), which will also be made on the 5th proximo.

In accordance with the practice inaugurated last year, summarised balance sheets of the Bataafische Petroleum Maatschappij and of the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Limited, are appended.

The retiring directors, Messrs. H. N. Benjamin, A. D. V. Davy, W. H. Samuel, and Dr. A. J. Cohen Stuart, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., retire under Article 10 of the Articles of Association, and are eligible for re-election.

VOLUNTEER CORPS ORDERS.

SIGNALING CLASS.

At Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 14th instant.

At Talkin at 5.15 p.m. on Monday, the 12th, and Thursday, the 15th inst.

ATTACHED.

Gunner H. Wilkins, Singapore Volunteer Artillery, is attached to No. 3 Artillery Company, H.K. Volunteer Corps, with effect from the 3rd instant.

RESIGNED.

Sapper H. J. Knight is permitted to resign with effect from the 2nd inst.

Sapper J. C. Rendelbury is permitted to resign with effect from the 2nd inst.

Sapper H. M. Edwards is permitted to resign on leaving the Colony with effect from the 2nd instant.

A CHINESE woman, above thirty-five years of age, committed suicide last Friday afternoon by hurling herself from the third storey veranda of the China Hotel, in Consulate Road Central. The cause for the woman taking her life was disappointment in love.

MUSICAL NOTES.

Kowloon folk have the advantage of dwellers in Hongkong now, for every Thursday evening throngs of people gather at the bottom of Mansfield Road to hear the 13th Rajput Band play at mass, while on Friday evenings, the 10th M. L. I. and Rajputa discourses excellent programmes up at the United Service Recreation Club.

Why have we no band night on the sea front? Could not an iron bandstand be erected close by the offices of B. and S., similar to the new landing stage at Blake Pier? We might then see crowds of folk sitting in their chairs or rickshas, or slowly promenading, while the Buffs play.

Mrs. Matthey, we hear, will shortly open her new wing, and in engaging her old friends the Rajputs to celebrate the occasion, when once again her patrons will be delighted with programmes chosen to suit their cosmopolitan taste.

On Sunday, the Belle View has a concert by the Rajputs, when "Marianne" and "Reminiscences of All Nations" will be played; also some popular waltzes, to which, by the bye, listeners will not be allowed to dance, the new management very properly taking a firm stand to keep the audience in order. The popular musical comedy "Dorothy" is to be played by the company, and concert opens its reception at the Kowloon C. O. Concert on Saturday inst. The playing of the band on Saturday evening will be a feature at the smoker of the V.R.C. The Portuguese amateurs have kindly volunteered their services, as has Mr. Gonzales, as conductor.

A big fuction is coming off, at the Kowloon Hotel, on August 6th, Bank Holiday, when the 13th Rajputa band under Mr. Coke will give a classical concert, and Mrs. Coke will sing, probably in "Marianne" and her pretty bell song.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

H.E. CHANG JEN CHUN.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 2nd July.

It is reported that H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen Chun has fixed the 24th day of this moon (the 11th instant) for the handing over charge of the Liang Kwang Viceregal Yamen to the Provincial Treasurer, H.E. Wu Seung Lum. H.E. Chang will then proceed about the end of this moon to Nanjing to take up his new appointment as Viceroy of the Liang Kwang.

H.E. Chang has given instructions to his subordinates to have all the outstanding business in connection with his yamha completed before his departure. H.E. Chang is in receipt of a telegram from the Canton Viceregal designate H.E. Yuan inquiring when H.E. Chang proposes to start from Canton for his new post.

LIKIN COLLECTIONS.

The collection of Likin Dues in Canton during the first ten days of the 5th moon, as reported by the Likin officials to the Viceregal, amounted to 47,686.65 taels.

On the 28th ultimo, the Lung Tau market-place in the Ying Tat district was attacked by over a hundred robbers; who ransacked thirteen shops and carried away a large quantity of silk piece goods, etc., to the value of over ten thousand dollars.

CHING LING FOO IN CANTON.

Ching Ling Foo, a famous Chinese conjuror, and company, who have returned lately from Australia, arrived here a fortnight ago. He has given remarkable performances in the various theatres in this city, which were thoroughly appreciated by the audience, both Chinese and foreign. Ching Ling Foo is assisted by his daughter who is about fifteen years of age, who sings English songs very well. In appreciation of her talents she has been presented with a number of medals which had been presented here during her tour in Europe and America. The entire troupe has won great popularity during their stay here, and it is reported that Ching Ling Foo will leave again for Europe in the course of a week.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

To confirm the temporary appointments of various high officials in this city as reported the other day, it is now officially announced that having obtained the necessary permission from the Imperial Government, H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen-chun has officially appointed the Provincial Educational Commissioner Shum Tsang Tung to assume temporary charge of the Provincial Treasurer's yamen, vice H.E. Wu Seung Lum; whereas before assuming Acting Viceregal, pending the arrival of the Viceregal designate, Yuan Shu Huan, Taotai Cheng Sik is, however, appointed Acting Provincial Educational Commissioner vice Shum Tsang Tung.

A SUPERSTITIOUS OFFICIAL.

Prior to the arrival of H.E. Chang Jen Chun to take over charge of the Viceregal yamen from ex-Viceregal H.E. Chou Fu, the year before last, H.E. Wu Seung Lum was made Acting Viceregal at Canton and he took over the seal of office in the 5th moon. During the tenure of the temporary office, the city of Hong Kong was attacked by insurgents during the rising in the prefectures of Yumchow and Limchow. As already reported, H.E. Chang Jen Chun has proposed to hand over charge of the Viceregal yamen to H.E. Wu on the 24th day of this moon (the 11th instant) but the latter official, evidently prejudiced by the Fong Shing occurrence, is strongly of opinion that the 5th moon is unpropitious. He has consulted with H.E. Chang for a postponement of the date, which is now further extended to the 24th day of the 6th moon (the 17th instant), when H.E. Wu will take over the seal of office from H.E. Chang.

H. K. KO YU HIM'S CONGRATULATIONS.

On the 3rd instant, the Chinese Delimitation Commissioner, H. K. Ko Yu Him, returned to Canton by the French steamer, and on the same day he called on H.E. Viceroy Chang to offer him congratulations on his new Viceregal appointment to the Liang Kwang provinces.

SHOP ROOF COLLAPSED.

Yesterday morning, the roof of a shop in Yung Cheung Street suddenly collapsed without warning and four persons were somewhat seriously injured.

FLOODS AGAIN THREATENED.

The officials of the riverine districts along the West River have reported to Canton that, owing to the heavy and continuous rainfall up-country, the West River has risen several feet above the normal level, and that floods are once again threatened.

7th July.

H.E. CHANG JEN CHUN'S IMPENDING DEPARTURE.

It is reported that H.E. Chang Jen Chun, after relinquishing the reins of office of the Liang Kwang Viceregal, will probably leave Canton about the 18th or 19th inst. for Shanghai by the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Kwangshai*. The Canton Viceregal designate, H.E. Yuan Shu Huan, is expected to arrive here about the middle of the 6th moon to take up his new appointment as Viceroy of the two Kwang provinces.

ARRIVAL OF INSPECTOR OF FINANCE.

Yesterday the newly-appointed Canton Inspector of Finance, Sung Shou Ching, arrived here from Shanghai.

SUPERSTITION CONQUERED.

Although H.E. Wu Seung Lum is of the opinion that the 5th moon is unpropitious, owing to the memorable occurrence in Fong Shing two years ago, for the taking over charge of the Viceregal yamen on the 11th instant, the date originally fixed, in accordance with telegraphic instructions received from Peking and owing to pressure of time, H.E. Wu is now obliged to give up his pet idea and is resolved to take over the seal of office from the outgoing Viceregal H.E. Chang Jen-chun on the 11th instant, as has previously been fixed, without having recourse to postponement. The Acting Provincial Treasurer, Shum Tsang Tung, and the Provincial Educational Commissioner Chang Sik Fan will also assume temporary charge of their respective offices on the same day.

LIKIN COLLECTION.

Some time ago, at the request of the merchants trading in the district of Ying Tat, the Canton-Hankow Railway Company applied to the Likin officials for an exemption of Likin dues on goods carried by the Canton-Hankow Railway, for all freight under the value of ten taels. In reply the Likin officials refused to acquiesce in the request, but promised to warn the Likin collecting officers to afford better treatment to the merchants.

8th July.

SALE OF CHINA LIGHTS.

With reference to the purchase by the Kwangtung Electric Company, Limited, of the properties and business of the Electric Light Works at Canton from the China Light Company, Limited, the Taotai for the Development of Native Industries (Chang Mong Tsang) has now issued a notice informing the public that the agreements for the sale and purchase of the Electric Light Works at Canton have been signed on the 5th instant by the two parties concerned and the property will be taken over from the China Light Co., Limited, when the balance of the purchase money has been paid. Mr. Pao Pui Yu has been appointed Chief Manager and Mr. Li Yung Fong assistant manager of the Kwangtung Light Co., Limited, which is an entirely Chinese concern with a capital of \$1,500,000, to be raised from both officials and merchants by issuing 150,000 shares at \$10 each. Of this amount the officials have taken up \$500,000, while the remaining \$1,000,000 have been promised by the promoters, Mr. Pao Pui Yu and others. Those who wish to buy up shares in this concern are invited to register their names and pay their subscriptions to the native bankers, Yuen Fung Yung & Co., in Ho Pan Street. The subscription list will be ready for registration from to-day (the 8th instant) and will be closed at the end of five days.

H.E. CHANG JEN CHUN.

Besides the gifts that are to be tendered to H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen Chun on his departure from Canton for Nanjing as Viceroy of the Liang Kwang provinces, the local gentry and the committees of the various societies and institutions here have now further suggested to observe the day of H.E. Chang's departure from Canton as a public holiday.

H.E. Chang Jen Chun has obtained permission from Peking to bring Taotai Li Chit Tsun, Wong Yu, Li Kah Check and several other officials along with him to Nanjing to assist him in the administration of the Liang Kwang provinces.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

It has already been reported that Sir Chun-Tung Liang Chang has tendered his resignation from his position as president of the Canton-Hankow Railway at Canton, to take effect at the end of the 6th moon. Yesterday a telegram was received from H. E. Chang Jen Chun, Director-General of the Canton-Hankow Railway, in which H. E. Chang refused to accept Sir Chun-Tung's resignation but persuaded him to continue in office without regarding the difficulties that he has to confront in connection with the progress of the railway.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORTS.

In their weekly share report, dated 3rd inst., Messrs. Erlich Georg & Co. write:—

Shares continued in fair demand during the week under review, but the volume of business has been only small. The sterling exchange of exchange on London closes at 1s. 9 1/4, while rates on Shanghai are the same as reported last. Barville in London is quoted 23 1/4, and Contols 28 7/16. The Bank of England's rate of discount remains 2 1/2 per cent, while the private market rate of discount is 1 1/2 per cent.

Bank Shares.—Hongkong and Shanghai sold at rates ranging between \$1,000 and \$10,000, and there are further buyers at \$125; the London rate has advanced to 297. Nationals are unchanged.

Marine Insurance Shares.—Unions sold at \$840 and 18 1/4, closing with sellers at \$87 1/4. North China are in request at \$110. In other stocks under this heading no change has taken place.

Fire Insurance Shares.—Hongkong's are wanted at \$145, but are held for \$150. Chinas charged hands at \$121, and shares are wanted now at \$112.

Shipping Shares.—Several hundreds of shares of the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company fetched \$33, at which figure the market closes quiet with sellers. Indo-China found buyers at \$66; the Shanghai rate is \$15, while the London rates are \$3, 15s. 0d. for preference and 2s. 6d. for deferred shares. China and Manilla have sellers at \$10, while Douglases are quiet at \$36. Star Ferries have been done at \$26 for old shares and \$15 for the new issue.

Shell Transports have liquidated at 61s. 2d. the dividend of 3s. per share (coupon No. 19), paid in London on 1st instant. Reuter's Oils have been only small. The sterling exchange of exchange on London closes at 1s. 9 1/4, while rates on Shanghai are the same as reported last. Barville in London is quoted 23 1/4, and Contols 28 7/16. The Bank of England's rate of discount remains 2 1/2 per cent, while the private market rate of discount is 1 1/2 per cent.

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and West Points at \$46 (in Shanghai shares sold at \$47). Hongkong Hotels, old sold and have buyers at \$58; the new issue is wanted at \$58. Humphreys' Estates have asked and buyers at \$94 and Shanghai Lands buyers at \$110.

Cotton Mills.—Shanghai quotes: Ewon Tia 133, International Tia 88,

NAME	DATE	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT	REMARKS
...	...	...	...

	Per chest
Panna New	960
" Old	965
Benares New	975
" Old	990
Farman (Paner)	000/1,000

A TRADER doing business at 7, Wellington Street, was fined \$100 in the Police Court, this morning, for selling *samsu* without a licence.

MR. F. A. Hazelbald has been appointed First Police Magistrate and Mr. J. R. Wood Second Police Magistrate with effect from 21st March last.

H.E. KO Yu-him, Chinese Commissioner for the Macao delimitation, is expected to be back from Canton on Monday next by the sis. *Pan*
Radio

Mr. W. S. Bailey has been appointed a surveyor of boilers of licensed steamships under 6 tons burden, during the absence on leave of Mr. E. O. Murphy.

THE laying of the Tairen-Chefoo cable, undertaken by Japan in accordance with the Sino-Japanese Telegraph Convention, has now been completed.

THE Chinese Government has discussed the possibility of increasing the allowances of Viceröys to Tls 10,000 a month and of Governors to Tls 8,000 monthly.

THE Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. launched a small tug yesterday for the Company's own use. The tug is to replace the No. 1 launch which has been sold.

MR. H. L. Alcock, assistant foreman of the British Cigarette Company, Shanghai, died suddenly at Kowloon whilst reading. Brain trouble was the cause of death.

THE King has been pleased to approve of Mr. Takashi Nakamura as Consul-General of Japan at Ottawa; and Señor Don Manuel Doming Dericano as Consul-General of Peru at Hong Kong.

THE action between the Po On firm (appellants) and Chan Kwab Shan in connection with the repayment of a sum of \$200 placed as deposit was last Monday dismissed with costs by the Full Court.

LATE this afternoon, the Colonial Secretary Department received a telegram from Chéfo to the effect that quarantine restrictions have been imposed on arrivals from Hongkong, Canton and Amoy.

Mr. W. W. Rockhill left Yokohama on 30th ult., on board the T. K. K. S. *Tenyo Maru*. Mr. Rockhill considers that financial reform must be carried out by the Chinese before the opening of a parliament.

THE summons taken out by Policeman Pepperell, of the Water Police Station, against Mrs. Reed, of 12, Nathan Road, Kowloon, for keeping a dog without a licence, was dismissed in the Police Court this morning.

THE Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Ltd., kindly informs us that the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending June 19 amounted to 31,744.64 tons and the sales during the period to 18,697.59 tons.

THERE were a number of prosecutions heard in the Police Court, to-day, against Chinese shopkeepers, who were charged with giving unstamped receipts to their customers when receiving payments. Fines of \$25 each were imposed.

THE Governor-in-Council has refused the request contained in the letter of "The Chinese Mutual Life Insurance Company, Limited," dated the 10th ult., for permission to return the deposit of \$200,000 withdrawn by the Company on the 17th December last.

GUNDA SINGH, the Indian watchman in the employment of our junior morning contemporary, who was charged the other day with offering a bribe of \$3 to a Supreme Court official, was fined \$100 by Mr. F. A. Hazeland, the Police Court, yesterday morning.

It is stated that President Liang Tun-yeu the Waiwupu is much against the Anbul a and Honan representatives, who are in Peki contending against Sir John Lister Kaye a the Peking Syndicate, and that this action h avoked adverse comments against Presid Liang.

A CALCUTTA correspondent states that effect of last year's inflation of opium revenue has become apparent in the considerable crease now. The duty on opium exported from Bombay since the beginning of the official year is close upon six lakhs of rupees less than the corresponding period of 1908.

A HANKOW dispatch states that the amount of coal supplied to the Hanyang Iron-works this year by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha has greatly increased of late and the annual quantity supplied is likely to reach 80,000 tons. The financial position of the iron-works has much improved under the new director, and concern is now passing its way.

Mr. SHODA, Director of the Finance Bureau in the Finance Department at Tokyo, arrived at Hankow on the 24th ultimo by rail after a tour of inspection in North China. In the evening Mr. Kobayashi, manager of the Hankow branch of the Specie Bank, gave a dinner in honour of Mr. Shoda. The latter afterwards visited the Viceroy, and was to leave Shanghai on 27th.

A CHINESE trader was fined \$250 in the Police Court, yesterday morning, for being in possession of a Winchester repeating rifle and 440 rounds of ammunition without a permit from the police. The offender was stopped and searched by a detective whilst in the act of boarding a Y. & N. River steamer last Wednesday evening. In the bundle was found the rifle, the ammunition and was discovered in a bucket.

H. E. PU Ting, President of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, is to have remarked recently to the President of the Walwaps that foreigners had obtained, or otherwise, control over many mining properties, and unless timely measures were taken to investigate the question, matters would become more entangled and would necessitate contact to solve the difficulties. President I. T. T. ran of the Walwaps, on receiving this view, ordered a report to be made for him by the Mining Bureau in all the provinces, relating the situation with full particulars.

THE new Chinese revenue stamps intended to be issued have been forwarded by the Ministry to the provinces.

BARON Takahira, Japanese Ambassador in Washington, will return home on a short leave after the close of Congress.

SIR Robert Bredon, Acting Inspector General of Chinese Customs, has received the Russian Consul at St. Petersburg, First Class.

THE Waiwapu has appointed deputies to investigate the question of foreign station-masters opening bñgs and hotels of their own without authority.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce has discussed the expediency of ordering the establishment of cattle farms in the different provinces.

The transfer of Viceroys Chang Jao-chun to Cien on the Liangkang Vicerealty has been made on the recommendation of Grand Councillor Chang Chih-tung.

H. E. CHANG Jao-chun, Viceroy of Kwang-tung, has telegraphed to Peking asking for imperial permission to make the newly opened

BRO. STEPHEN, who has been connected with St. Joseph's College for twelve years and who has recently returned from a trip to Europe, will leave for Singapore by the English mail to-morrow.

PRINCE Tsai Chen has been granted an Imperial Audience. He presented an autograph letter from Prince Chun, Regent of China, to the Emperor of Japan and lunched at the Palace. He was to dine with Prince Fushimi.

THE following companies have been unanimously elected members of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce:—Messrs. the Chinese and Manila S.S. Co., Ltd., Messrs. Cruz Baslo & Co. and Messrs. the Vacuum Oil Co.

OUR Canton correspondent, writing under yesterday's date (6th inst.), states that the newly-appointed Canton Inspector of Finance, Sung Shou Ching, who left Shanghai on the 2nd instant for the South, was expected at the Southern capital yesterday.

A SHOP coolie named Chan Kam Hing, of Bonham Strand, who was arrested on board the steamer *Shui On* yesterday with a dagger concealed about his person, had a fine of \$50 to pay in the Police Court, to-day. The dagger was confiscated.

THE appointment of Mr. J. H. Kemp as Registrar, Supreme Court, and Registrar of Companies, etc. and Mr. E. D. O. Wolfe as acting Head of the Sanitary Department, and Mr. R. O. Hutchison as Assistant Registrar General, with effect from the 30th ulto., is gazetted.

H.E. GENERAL Sir Joachim Machado K.C.M.G., accompanied by Senhor D. Cinatti, and Capt. Norton went on a round of informal visits last Monday morning. Senhor Cinatti called on the Chief Justice when His Lordship was engaged in Court in the forenoon.

A NOTORIOUS character was found to have escaped from the Victoria Gaol, last Saturday night or on Sunday morning. It is surmised that he must have had some assistance in escaping, as the prison wall is nearly twenty feet high and topped with glass. Up to the present the prisoner is still at large.

THE two years' commission of the cruiser *Kent*, Captain Gerald C. A. Marescaux, will expire in November next, and it is understood that she will be recommissioned for further service with the China Squadron. Over two-thirds of the officers and crew are due for relief on the expiration of her commission.

CHAN MUI, a woman, of 37, Hb Uh Street was found guilty in the Police Court, to-day of treating her servant girl, thirteen years of age, cruelly, between 25th June and yesterday. The cruelty consisted of beating the child with a rattan until the flesh was torn. She was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour without the option of a fine.

THERE seems to have been a revival of the "bank note" trick business. Last Tuesday, Chinese woman, residing at 122, Hollywood Road, was victimized in Queen's Road by two men. She turned over to them her gold rattan bangle, valued at \$25, for a roll of "bank notes" which she was asked to change for the men on commission. As is well known the "bank notes" turned out to be old paper!

A REPORT from Berlin states that the defence of Kiangchow are being carried out very effectively, and Germany has now begun to fortify the Protectorate from the land side. On the southern and eastern approaches marine defences have been strengthened.

form of redoubts and coast batteries. On the northern side shallow water would not allow an enemy's warships to approach the shore and the defence works have been only very very small. The report states the land works referred to have attracted a great deal of attention in official circles in Peking.

The Japanese Government has decided to grant a charter to the Oriental Whaling Company, a Japanese organisation, giving this company whaling rights in the coastal waters of Formosa. It is expected that the company will commence operations about February next. The formation of this company is an operation on the coast of Formosa is probably the first of its kind, as whalers are rapidly disappearing from the Japanese coast, owing to the loss of steamers for their capture during the last year or two. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is now considering measures for the protection of whales on the Japanese coast.

It is stated that Viceroy Tuan Fung's intention in the promotion of the Naanking Exhibition is not lessened in any way by his transference to Tientsin as Viceroy of Chihli. His Excellency proposes to make a personal and extensive tour of inspection of the Naanking Exhibition, and goes to the capital and will ask that the Commissioner be put in charge of the Exhibition with full control. His Excellency will also strongly urge on the Government the advisability of exempting exhibits from duty with reference to provincial trade. It is said that the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Tan, who will accompany Viceroy Naanking, and Mr. Wang Chang's arrival, has pledged himself to give his strong support to the Exhibition.

CONCERNING the recent establishment of a new measurer in the office of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Limited, United States Vice-Consul General Sumner Fuller, writes: "This office has been notified by the Suez Conference, which includes practically all the European lines and the New York lines operating via the Suez Canal, that any vessel calling at the port of New York is accepted by any of these companies unless it has been measured and the measurements certified to by this measurer, or one of his deputies. This involves the lines in question with protection against imposition on part of shippers, as well as insuring that members of the conference is confident of the means of short measurement. It is especially important in connection with cargo shipped down from Canton and transferred direct to our landing, to the competing steamer."

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

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